

AUGUST 2007

# SALVATIONIST.CA



COMMUNICATING PASSION AND MISSION

Canada and Bermuda

## Get Your Kicks!

Sports outreach  
combines fun  
and faith

**Are We Losing  
Our Camps?**

**The New Brass Band**

**Hot Books for  
Summer**

**Join the Digital  
Revolution**





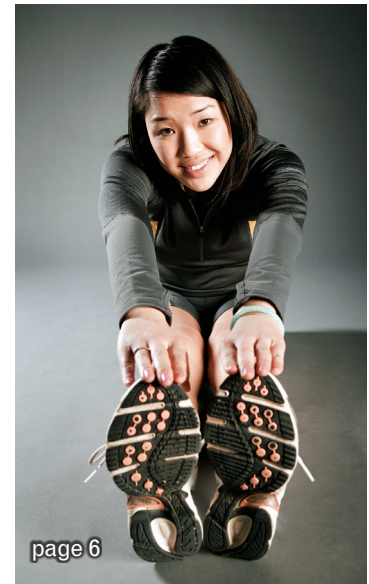
## Features

### 4 Contact Sports

Eighty percent of your neighbours watched or participated in a sporting event last month. Only 19 percent visited a church. Here's how to close the gap  
*Jack O'Halloran*

### 6 God and Your Bod

Forget the latest fitness craze or diet fad. Getting in shape can be easy if you've got the right motivation  
*Andrew Evans*



### 10 What Are You Reading This Summer?

These recent books may stimulate your interest



Giving  
Hope  
Today

*Salvationist* is a monthly publication of The Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory, 2 Overlea Blvd, Toronto ON M4H 1P4. International Headquarters: 101 Queen Victoria St, London, England EC4P 4EP. William and Catherine Booth, Founders; Shaw Clifton, General; Commissioner William Francis, territorial commander; Lt-Colonel Ray Moulton, editor-in-chief; Geoff Moulton, managing editor (416-422-6226); Major Ken Smith, associate editor (416-422-6117); Timothy Cheng, art director; Pamela Richardson, production and distribution co-ordinator; Lt-Colonel Marilyn Moulton, Captain Kim Walter, Ken Ramstead, Brandon Laird, Jeannette Kerr, Linda Leigh, Clint Houlbrook, contributors.

Member, The Canadian Church Press. All Scripture references from the Holy Bible, *Today's New International Version (TNIV)* © 2001, 2005 International Bible Society. Used by permission of International Bible Society. All rights reserved worldwide.

**Agreement No.** 40064794, ISSN 1718-5769  
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**Subscriptions:** Annual: Canada \$29.80 (includes GST); U.S. \$36; Foreign \$41. Available from: The Salvation Army, 2 Overlea Blvd, Toronto ON M4H 1P4. Phone: 416-422-6112; fax: 416-422-6120; e-mail: circulation@can.salvationarmy.org.

**Letters to the Editor:** We welcome your comments. Letters must include name, postal and e-mail addresses and phone number.

**News, Events and Submissions:** Editorial lead time is seven weeks prior to an issue's publication date. No responsibility is assumed to publish, preserve or return unsolicited material. E-mail submissions preferred.

**Contact Information:** Write to the editor at salvationist@can.salvationarmy.org or *Salvationist*, 2 Overlea Blvd, Toronto ON M4H 1P4.

**Advertising:** Enquire by e-mail for rates at circulation@can.salvationarmy.org.

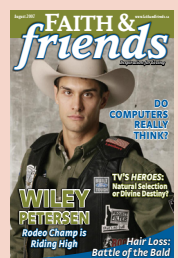
#### Mission Statements

The Salvation Army exists to share the love of Jesus Christ, meet human needs and be a transforming influence in the communities of our world.

*Salvationist* informs readers about the mission and ministry of The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda while engaging them with our biblical mission and purpose.

## Faith & Friends

Are you sharing your faith? When you finish reading *Faith & Friends* in the centre of this issue, pull it out and give it to someone who needs to hear about Christ's life-changing power. You'll both be glad you did.







## 12 Building God's Dream Team

Do God and sports mix? For a growing number of congregations, the answer is "yes." Discover how Salvationists across the territory are coaching their neighbours—in teamwork and in faith

## 18 The Digital Dynamic

How digital communications are transforming the Church  
*M. Rex Miller*

## Departments

### 8 Around the Territory

### 9 Did You Know?

### 16 As I See It

The New Brass Band  
*Colonel Glen Shepherd*

### 17 Resources

### 26 Celebrate Community

Recognition and enrolment, tribute, gazette, calendar

## 22 Summer Camp: A Bold New Direction

The Army unveils a plan for its Ontario camping ministries that will invest money where it counts—in kids

*Interview with Major Alf Richardson*

## 24 Red Cap

The Salvation Army launches a new anger management program for kids

*Major Tracey Tidd*

## 25 Community Spirit

When fire struck a Toronto neighbourhood, members of The Warehouse leapt into action

*Ken Ramstead*



### 29 Just Between Us

Protect Your Children  
*Major Kathie Chiu*

### 30 PrayerZone

2007 Prayer Diary

## Letters

### 31 My Perspective

Silenced Citizens  
*Lt-Colonel David Hiscock*

## Ministry Through Sports

As Christians, we can sometimes become so comfortable in the relationships we develop at church that we don't know how to connect with the world around us. The resulting isolation can prove to be a deadly environment that prevents us from reaching out with grace and truth to our neighbours as we cling to the safety net of our Christian friends and activities. The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 12:2, "Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking" (*The Message*). This pitfall is just as devastating to the mission of Christ's followers as it is to the spiritual health of unbelievers.

Last month, we encouraged our readers to look carefully at movies, using them as cultural connecting points. They can be a valuable tool to open up discussions with those we meet daily, leading to the discovery of significant spiritual truths. This month, we are looking at another key feature of the makeup of our larger culture—sports.

Watching, talking about and participating in sports takes up an enormous amount of time in the lives of many, especially youth. To connect with this culture, we must spend our time and energy to seek out new ministry opportunities in the neighbourhoods in which we live. This issue of *Salvationist* explores the principles of using sports in Christian ministry. We profile several corps and individuals who have found a way to impact others through sports. Some have found organizing local sporting teams or leagues helpful. Others seek out existing sporting leagues and events to coach and mentor young people in their spiritual lives. Our camping programs that focus on sports have an attraction and interest that we may not otherwise have in the community.

Whether through coaching, or just bringing refreshments and a word of encouragement, watch for opportunities to build conversations that bring hope, overcome loneliness and offer faith in Christ.

**Ray Moulton**

*Lt-Colonel, Editor-in-Chief*





# Contact Sports

## Penalties and Free Kicks

Sports ministry is using athletics and recreation to be a witness for Jesus Christ. We are called by God to cultivate the gifts, abilities and talents that he bestows (see Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11). The court, the field, the track become an “altar” for the athlete to offer his or her talent as an expression of worship. Just as a musician has the capacity to offer each note heavenward in worship of God, the athlete offers each manoeuvre and technical skill as their “note” of praise and thanksgiving. Faith is found in word, in prayer, in song. And sometimes it’s found in a well-timed pass to a sprinting midfielder. Churches are realizing that sports can be a powerful evangelical tool. More and more congregations are offering sporting opportunities as a gateway to a deeper exploration of faith.

In his book, *The Purpose Driven Church*, Rick Warren states that the best way to reach the lost is to follow the example of Jesus. Jesus addressed the felt needs of the people, many of whom came to him for physical healing. But he also understood that the eternal penalty of unforgiven sin was greater than illness or disease.

Sports can provide a tool for you to meet the felt needs of lost people in your community and point them to God’s greater plan of salvation. In most cases, the resources are already at your disposal. You may have an open gym, sports equipment, a large field or financial resources that people in your community would love to access. Why not invite them in?

## From Winning Games to Winning Hearts

I know you have much work to do in your church. Isn’t sports ministry just one more program to add to the list? Perhaps, but it’s one of the most efficient and effective ministries in which your congregation can get involved. I don’t know about you, but

Eighty percent of the people in your community watched or participated in a sporting event last month. Only 19 percent visited a church. Here’s how to close the gap

by Jack O’Halloran, Sports Ministry Outreach Director, British Columbia Division

**S**port is one of the few activities that brings people together, no matter where they are on the globe. Potential barriers such as colour, race, language, religion, age and gender are all forgotten on the sporting field, in the pool or on the court. Many sports organizations, agencies and local churches have long known of the benefit of being involved in sport. It’s a way to build a bridge to the community and connect with different cultures.

Great stuff, you say, but what does it mean to me? Or to my church or congregation for that matter? Consider this: a

recent Gallup poll showed that more than 80 percent of North Americans watched, read about or participated in sports at least once in the last month and 70 percent in the last week. Or what about this? In 2004, Statistics Canada stated that 48 percent of boys and 38 percent of girls in Canada ages five to 17 were involved in sports.

Not convinced yet? Consider the findings of Upward Sports Ministry: while 80 percent of people in your community were in contact with a sporting event last month, only 19 percent were in contact with a church. It’s time to close the gap!




I like accomplishing my goals, and I don't like wasting my time, money or energy.

Courtney Cash, a minister of education at a small church outside Fort Worth, Texas, has developed a training session called *Sports Ministry: From Winning Games to Winning Hearts*. The following are some of her observations about the strengths of sports ministry:

- **Popularity:** Instead of wasting time trying to find out how to attract people to your programs, you can tap into an activity and place where the people are already gathering.
- **Proximity:** Relationships are built by relating to people. Sports evangelism puts you in the middle of the action and provides a context that can lead to deeper relationships.
- **Simplicity:** Having fun is not hard. Rolling a ball onto a field or unlocking a gym door is not difficult. There are details and planning involved with sports evangelism, but the ministry concept is simple.
- **Multiplicity:** Sports evangelism is easy to replicate. If you meet a group of students playing Ultimate Frisbee in the park and lead them through the process of becoming Christians, your next step is to send them back out as a witness. You don't need a 13-week program to teach them door-to-door evangelism. You simply send them back to the park to follow the example they saw you model.
- **Activity:** Sports evangelism is built around activity and participation. There isn't a lot of wasted talk or committee meetings in sports evangelism, unless

you put them there. People like to play, and sports gets people involved immediately in a common goal.

- **Opportunity:** Sports evangelism brings Christians and non-Christians together in a non-threatening environment. Conversations about sports and games can lead to conversations about life and Christ. Circumstances and events in sports can lead to teachable moments. God uses the talents and interests of Christians to create opportunities for his work.
- **Adaptability:** Sports evangelism can easily be used to support many different types of ministry activities. It can engage

new people, enlist people not currently involved in church ministries, provide opportunities for direct evangelism and create small group settings for discipleship. It can be used for one-on-one or team-based activities. It is not age or gender specific. Sports evangelism is the duct tape of ministry. You always need to have it in your toolbox, because you never know what need or opportunity might arise. 

For further information on these programs or to comment on this article, contact Jack O'Halloran at [jack\\_ohalloran@can.salvationarmy.org](mailto:jack_ohalloran@can.salvationarmy.org)

## Sports Ministry Highlight Reel

**KidsGames** is a multi-day, multi-group, Bible-based sports ministry for children ages 6-14. Its greatest strength is that it is a global initiative. The KidsGames manual incorporates ideas and models from the Middle East, Africa, South America, North America, the Pacific, Asia and Europe. Local KidsGames may differ in appearance, but they all have the same core elements. KidsGames operates in over 125 countries, all materials are free and hundreds of thousands of kids are reached every year. If you could take your traditional VBS program and morph it from a "church" program into a "community changing" program, you would have KidsGames.

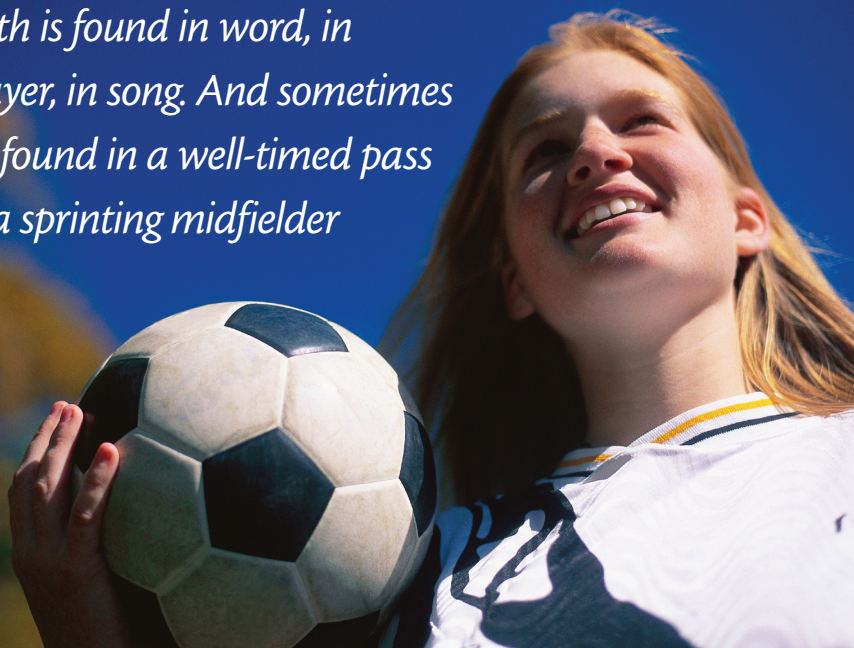
**Kidz Turf** is a one-of-a-kind program offered by The Salvation Army's sports ministry in B.C., Athletes in Action (AIA) and the B.C. Lions of the Canadian Football

League. It impacts lives and builds the Kingdom by reaching hundreds of kids and adults each year. At each B.C. Lions home game, families have the opportunity to join an AIA leader and a Salvation Army sports ministry leader to enjoy an evening of CFL football, receive a special T-shirt, share dinner and experience the thrill of cheering for their favourite team. After every game, Kidz Turf leaders escort the group to a media room, where they meet various players and coaches who share their faith in Jesus Christ and how it fits into their professional sports careers. There is always time for questions and autographs with players and coaches, and the impact on a child can last a lifetime.


### Major Sporting Events Ministry Outreach

is another initiative that presents the gospel to athletes and their families, officials and games organizers, visitors and local residents. The programs are designed specifically for major sporting events, such as the FIFA World Cup or the Olympic Games, and are as varied as the sports they host. At ground level, Christians share the gospel in culturally relevant ways, including home-stay programs, creative arts, hospitality service, volunteering and resource materials. It's an opportunity to work cross-denominationally, increasing the Church's visibility and credibility. Mission teams, sports camps and KidsGames offer local congregations the ability to invite non-believers into their church to experience fun and the love of Jesus. These sports ministries also make it possible to reach the mission field without spending huge amounts of money and to target the gospel to many hard-to-reach people groups.

*Faith is found in word, in prayer, in song. And sometimes it's found in a well-timed pass to a sprinting midfielder*







Forget the latest fitness craze or diet fad. Getting in shape can be easy if you've got the right motivation

# God and Your Bod

by Andrew Evans

*Certified Exercise Physiologist,  
Cariboo Hill Temple, Burnaby, B.C.*

## Building Up the Temple

In North America, we have ignored healthy living to our detriment. Health Canada statistics portray a country riddled with chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular disease (CVD), cancer and diabetes. These conditions are responsible for 75 percent of all deaths in Canada. In some cases, these diseases could be prevented by healthy lifestyle choices that connect the body's design to the soul's purpose.

In Romans 12:1-2, the Apostle Paul issues a call to action: "Therefore I urge you brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is true worship. Do not conform to the pattern of the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and prove what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

God desires that your body be pleasing and perfect. Not in the way that the world conceives of perfection—washboard abs or five percent body fat—but healthy and strong so that we are prepared to carry out his work. God wants you to be physically able to love him "with all your strength" (see Deuteronomy 6:5).

Throughout Old Testament history, God's Spirit dwelt in magnificent places, such as the tabernacle and Solomon's temple. But Jesus revealed that the Holy

**A**re coffee, doughnuts, ice cream and potato chips your idea of the four basic food groups? Does the very thought of breaking a sweat cause you to reach for the TV remote? If so, God is calling you to get off the couch and get active!

Despite what the infomercials tell you, it's not necessary to have "abs of steel," bulging biceps or a 26-inch waistline to be healthy. A few simple lifestyle changes can help you feel great, live longer and even boost your spiritual relationship with God. All it takes is a realistic plan, a little sweat and determination.

Sadly, society often distorts the way we view and treat our bodies. We tend toward two extremes: neglecting the body through

inactivity and poor diet or worshipping the body by over-exercise, vanity and eating disorders.

As Christians, we mustn't play into either trap. We shouldn't feel defeated or criticized just because we don't fit a certain body type. On the other hand, we

*God wants you to be physically able to love him "with all your strength"*

also have to encourage each other to care for our bodies in the way God intended. Physical fitness is part of a lifestyle of holiness that acknowledges a deeper connection between body and soul—a lifestyle that we should all be striving for.



Spirit was meant to reside in the most magnificent temple of all—our bodies! Paul writes, “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your bodies” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). God has designed each of us to actively serve and glorify him in this way.

### “Fit” For His Dwelling

So what can we do to stay healthy? Salvation Army *Orders and Regulations* outline a solid plan for a healthy and godly lifestyle: “The Salvationist will not despise or misuse his body. Since it can be the instrument of God’s purpose, he will endeavour—insofar as this is possible—to keep it in a healthy, vigorous state.... The Salvationist will seek to ensure that he gets sufficient fresh air, exercise and sleep. This is Christian common sense.”

As soldiers, we have committed our bodies to God and are expected to keep them “fit” for his dwelling. Our Soldier’s Covenant proclaims that we will abstain from all enslaving habits such as smoking, alcohol and pornography, but our Founder recognized that even good things, in excess, can prevent us from living out God’s will. In his missive *Religion for Every Day*, William Booth noted: “Eating and drinking have much to do with the shortening of peoples’ lives.... I very much question whether more people do not die from over-eating than over-drinking.”

These days, other things that prevent us from being physically healthy include too much time watching TV, surfing the Internet or sitting behind a desk.

### Let’s Get Physical

As Christians, we must approach physical fitness in a way that honours God. If he has planned for you to live to the ripe old age of 100, but your inactivity and unhealthy lifestyle causes you to die early, what then? God has plans for your soul to accomplish in your healthy body, but to do this you must be a faithful steward of his “temple.”

The good news is that God is gracious and compassionate, even when we fail to live up to his expectations. He is the great restorer. He has designed our bodies with the capacity to heal, repair themselves and return to a state of health. Many diseases can be prevented, assuaged or even reversed with proper exercise and nutrition.

So for all you chronic couch potatoes,

there’s no better time than now to get your body moving. Here’s how:

- Start or take part in a sports ministry in your corps such as soccer, flag football, volleyball or basketball. It’s a great way to engage young people and help your church stay involved with the community.
- If you’re not a sports fan, there are still plenty of ways to stay active. Ride your bike, work in your garden or start a lunch-time walking group at your workplace.
- Pack a healthy lunch instead of eating out at fast-food restaurants. You’ll save money and cut down on empty calories.
- Turn off your TV and computer for a few

hours each day and get outdoors. You’ll soon see the benefits—increased energy, an alert mind. Maybe you’ll even fit into those old jeans from high school!

- Before you “bless the food,” take a minute to ask yourself, “Is this what God wants me to put in my body?” Maybe you need to pray *before* you shop at the grocery store or order at the restaurant.

This week take note of your physical activities. Try to see exercise as worship, a way to use your body as “an instrument of righteousness” (see Romans 6:13). God is calling you to greater health. Make your body a living sacrifice. ☺

## 9 Steps to a Fitter You

If you don’t exercise regularly, here are a few easy guidelines to get you started:

1. **Get at least 30 minutes of aerobic activity** (minimum brisk walk intensity) three times per week. Maintain a pace that elevates your heart rate—but not enough to prevent you from carrying on a conversation.
2. **Practise full-body resistance exercises** at least once a week. If you will be using weights, learn the proper technique—improper body position and pace for exercise can lead to nasty nagging injuries.
3. **Stretch regularly on most days of the week.** Stretch after a workout, hot bath or shower. Make sure the body is warm before stretching. Never stretch when muscles are cold. Don’t bounce. Hold the stretch for at least 45 seconds but aim for one minute. Stretching should be pain-free.
4. **See your doctor for a check-up.** Be sure that your current health matches the physical training program you’re about to embark on. Annual “physicals” are also important to maintain good health. Ask your physician about your cardiovascular disease risk factors.
5. **Connect with a personal trainer or an exercise physiologist.** These experts can help tailor an exercise and nutrition plan to your goals.
6. **Eat a balanced diet.** Avoid foods that are high in saturated fats, trans fats or sodium. If you snack between meals, choose healthy options such as fruit, cut veggies or yogurt. An easy way to get started is to follow the Canada Food Guide at [www.healthcanada.gc.ca/foodguide](http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/foodguide).
7. **Pace yourself.** Allow time for your body to recover and heal between workouts. If you have an intense workout one day, ease up the next day with some lighter training.
8. **Get the proper amount of rest.** Studies show that those who are sleep-deprived have a higher rate of obesity. The average adult needs seven or eight hours of sleep per night.
9. **Make the Holy Spirit your training buddy.** Pray about how you can honour God with your body and improve the condition of his temple. Use your discipline in reading your Bible and praying as a model for physical discipline.





# Agincourt Celebrates a Century of Service

**G**eneral John Gowans (Rtd) and Commissioner Gisèle Gowans joined a jubilant weekend of praise and worship during 100th anniversary celebrations at Agincourt Community Church, Toronto. The weekend recognized the congregation's historic roots in the former Chester and Danforth Corps, and was supported throughout by two of its current soldiers, Colonels Glen and Eleanor Shepherd, chief secretary and territorial secretary for women's ministries.

More than 200 attended the Friday night anniversary banquet, including many former corps officers and soldiers. It was a time for acquaintances long forgotten to be renewed as memories were shared and younger members of the church family were introduced.

Highlights included musical presentations from various individuals and groups reflecting the many years of the corps' existence. Among the presenters were former corps officer Mrs. Lt-Colonel Dorothy Brown, a male quartet from the Danforth days and 14 members of the original cast of *Takeover Bid*, a musical that the corps



**General John Gowans (Rtd) kneels with a seeker during the dramatized open-air meeting that concluded the Saturday evening Celebration of Praise**

presented in 1968. General Gowans recited Vachel Lindsay's famous poem *General William Booth Enters Heaven*.

The Saturday night Celebration of Praise featured guest vocalist Jude Gotrich, the Ontario Central Divisional Youth Chorus and Agincourt Band, Songsters, YP Band and Children's Chorus. Former bandmaster Keith Ketteringham led the band in his new march *Agincourt Centennial*, and the songsters presented a new piece written for the occasion by former corps officer Major Donna Millar entitled *Glorify the Lord*. At the end of the evening, a dramatized open-air meeting from bygone days

was recreated on the platform. As General Gowans spoke and appealed to his listeners to respond to the gospel message, the congregation witnessed a seeker who came forward to kneel at the overturned bass drum to make a commitment to Christ. The historical re-enactment was a fitting conclusion to a wonderful night of praise and celebration.

Sunday began with a march of witness, followed by a holiness meeting to be remembered. A lined mercy seat, glorious singing and deep biblical preaching from General Gowans left a capacity house aware of God's glory, majesty and power.

## Lakeview Manor Marks 25 Years of Caring

**I**t's often said that a society will be judged by the manner in which it treats its most vulnerable members. Some of the most vulnerable are our seniors, particularly those who need constant care. Perhaps that's why residents of New Brunswick feel a strong sense of pride in Lakeview Manor, The Salvation Army's nursing home in Riverview, where compassion and love for the infirm and those who are most vulnerable is readily on display.

Its reputation of excellence throughout the province was highlighted during 25th anniversary celebrations in May, led by Commissioner M. Christine MacMillan, then territorial commander. Stories were

shared by residents, staff and community leaders, illustrating why Lakeview Manor

is such a special place for all who have an affiliation here.



What makes Lakeview Manor different? Major Shirley King, executive director, believes it is the home's stated mission. "We are called to serve God and take care of people in his name," she declared. "That's more than a job—that's a ministry."

**Comr M. Christine MacMillan, former TC, spends a moment with residents and guests gathered for 25th anniversary celebrations**



## Reaching Out at RIDEAU HEIGHTS

**T**wenty-four years ago, Rideau Heights Community Church, Kingston, Ont., started as a church plant out of Kingston Citadel's Sunday school program. The congregation maintains an active youth ministry and has expanded to include an emergency food bank, meal service program and friendship room for seniors. The existing building wasn't big enough, so with the help of a generous legacy, a new addition was recently built and opened during 20th anniversary celebrations in April. It includes a games room/dining room, café, family service office and commercial kitchen, opening more space in the original part of the building for youth ministry.

The corps anniversary weekend included a Day with the Word on Saturday, led by Majors Floyd and Tracey Tidd from THQ corps ministries. This was followed by a celebration dinner and open house, in which guests could tour the new facility. The day ended with a large fireworks display that attracted neighbours and could be seen many blocks away. Sunday worship included the enrolment of four new soldiers and one adherent, each of whom have a vision to minister to the needy and hurting in their community.



**Cutting the ribbon to open the new addition. From left, Deputy Mayor Vicky Schmolka; the Honourable Peter Milliken, MP for Kingston and the Islands; City Councillor Sara Meers; Mjr Floyd Tidd, corps ministries secretary, THQ; Ontario MPP John Gerritsen, minister of municipal affairs and housing**

## Housing the Homeless in ST. JOHN'S



**Cutting the ribbon, from left, are Wanda Burt, divisional CFS director, N.L. E Div; Mjr Harold Bungay, executive director, St. John's Downtown Core Ministries; Comr M. Christine MacMillan, former TC; the Honourable Shawn Skinner, Minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment and Minister Responsible for Newfoundland and Labrador Housing. Back row, Mayor Andy Wells; Mjr Ray Rowe, DC, N.L. E Div**

**O**n April 11, Commissioner M. Christine MacMillan, former territorial commander, opened the newly renovated Wiseman Centre in St. John's, N.L., supported by Major Ray Rowe, DC, N.L. East Division, and federal and provincial government representatives. The new building has 20 self-contained shelter units along with 10 supportive-housing units, enabling The Salvation Army to assist homeless men to live as independently as possible.

"Projects like the Wiseman Centre can provide the support that people facing challenging times need in order to get back on their feet," said the Honourable Fabian Manning, MP for Avalon. "The goal is to move individuals toward self-sufficiency so they can build better and stronger futures and become active participants in Canadian society."

Mayor Andy Wells acknowledged, "The opening of this newly refurbished shelter is very important for our city. It's another example of The Salvation Army extending care to people in need."

The time of celebration was complete when one of the residents, who had come from a life of drugs and crime, told the assembled guests, "My days of following the wrong lifestyle are now over. With the help of people here at the Wiseman Centre, I know I will succeed."

### Did you know ...

... the Scarborough Citadel Five-Pin Bowling League, Toronto, recently celebrated its 20th anniversary? Membership averages 30-40 bowlers per year and includes Salvationists and others from the neighbouring community  
 ... Mjr Calvin Collins, CO, West Hill CC, Toronto, willingly submitted to a complete shave of his hair and beard to raise \$900 for this year's Red Shield Appeal?  
 ... Carter Snow, a member of Conception Bay South Corps, N.L., and nominee for

Youth Volunteer of the Year, raised \$150 through his band Distortion to help a local resident who suffers from cystic fibrosis?

... Xiaoxiao Zhang, an international student from China and employee of The Salvation Army's thrift store in Pembina, Man., donated her 80-centimetre-long hair to raise \$400 for cancer research?

... Southlands CC, Winnipeg, offers translations of its Sunday worship services in Spanish and Mandarin Chinese? The corps has also raised more than \$5,000

for world missions

... five Canadian young people participated in the New York Staff Band's Future All-Stars weekend earlier this year? Canadian delegates included Stephen Chard (Westminster Park, London, Ont.), Adam Fyn (Woodstock, Ont.), Kendra and Riley Thompson (Oshawa Citadel, Ont.), and Jeremy Smith (North Toronto CC)  
 ... the New York Staff Band is the oldest staff band in the Army world, and this year celebrates its 120th anniversary? For more information, visit [www.nysb.org](http://www.nysb.org)



# What Are You Reading This

Recent books to stimulate your interest

## I Sold My Soul on E-Bay

Hemant Mehta

review by Ken Ramstead, Associate Editor, Faith & Friends

Most of us probably remember the brief newspaper accounts of “the eBay atheist.” Hemant Mehta is an atheist genuinely interested in what Christianity has to say. “If it made more sense than my secular views,” he writes, “I would have to alter my beliefs. So I decided the best thing to do was to expose myself to church.” To that end, he auctioned himself off on the online site, and offered to attend worship services of the winning bidder’s choosing. The media subsequently billed this as Mehta “selling his soul.”

At the behest of the winner, Mehta visited churches in Illinois, Michigan, Texas and Colorado, U.S.A. His experiences became the core of *I Sold My Soul on eBay*.

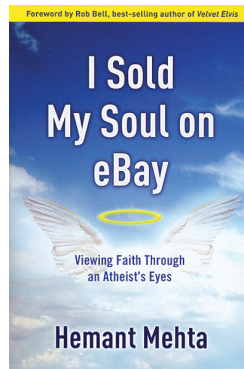
Mehta’s strongest praise is reserved for the so-called mega-churches, particularly Pastor Joel Osteen’s Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas. “Even though I don’t believe in the God that Joel does, I walked out of Lakewood Church with the knowledge that thousands of people were going to have a better day, and maybe even a better life, after hearing him speak. That might be the key to making Sunday morning services—and the church in general—more appealing to outsiders.”

While larger churches are better able to attract the best and the brightest that their congregations have to offer, smaller churches can just as effectively make use of their God-given talents. To facilitate that, Mehta includes a checklist of what he thought worked and what didn’t work at the churches he attended. Things that worked included relevant sermons, community outreach, energy level and passion. Things that didn’t were not paying attention in church, distracting behaviour during worship and intrusive projection screens.

While Mehta never attended a Salvation Army corps, what would his reaction have been?

For Army corps leaders and their congregation, the book—and the study guide questions at the end—should provide plenty of opportunity for self-examination: What would an atheist think if he walked through your church doors? Whether ministering to committed atheists or fervent churchgoers, there is no question that articulate, intelligent, genuinely curious people like Mehta are our “target audience.” We can debate the merits of his conclusions, but his sincere observations on how we can do a better job of attracting and keeping people in the pews can only be welcomed.

Whether as an examination of one atheist’s beliefs or as a snapshot of Christianity in North America, *I Sold My Soul on eBay* is recommended reading.



## Saying Yes to Life

General John Larsson (Rtd)

review by Major Ken Smith, Associate Editor, Salvationist

I grew up as a teenager in the 1970s, when the names Gowans and Larsson had quickly become household words in Army circles. I was personally involved in three of their 10 musicals and, as a musician and pianist myself, particularly looked up to John Larsson for his musical creativity. Then, from 1994 to 1996, it was my privilege to work with then-Commissioner Larsson when he was the territorial commander for New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga. His visits to the training college where I was stationed were always memorable occasions. Having long known of him only through his music, I learned to respect him as a spiritual leader and a man of God deeply committed to the work of The Salvation Army.

For me, reading this book was a fascinating glimpse into General Larsson’s life story. In this 280-page autobiography, he shares what he has learned about living abundantly over a lifetime of service and leadership. “My ministry as a Salvation Army officer has been central to my life for nearly 50 years,” he writes, “but I have not wanted this account of my life to be just an extended version of my officer service record.”

This it most certainly is not. General Larsson candidly shares his life’s experiences. Writing in his characteristic warm, conversational style, with gentle touches of humour along the way, he tells how saying yes to life has helped him along the journey and urges his readers to do the same.

Born in Sweden to officer parents, he describes his upbringing in South America where he learned to read and write in both English and Spanish, and how he responded to God’s call, which eventually led to his own lifetime of international service. He tells of his struggles as a young officer when for years he longed for a deeper spiritual experience through the infilling of the Spirit.

In addition to writing about his appointments in the United Kingdom, Chile, New Zealand, Sweden and at International Headquarters, General Larsson tells the story of his musicals and books, his love for music and nature, and his connection with historical events in The Salvation Army. Chief among these was his work in separating the former British Territory from IHQ at the request of General Eva Burrows, something previous administrations had tried unsuccessfully to accomplish for years.

The book is a fascinating account of John Larsson’s life and ministry and will be of great interest to Salvationist readers who may only have known him through his music. I pray that it will help all those who read it to say yes to life and be affirmed in their own walk with God.





# Summer?

## I Knew William Booth

R. Gordon Moyles

review by Lt-Colonel Maxwell Ryan

I am pleased that one of the Army's best-known historians and compilers, Salvationist Gordon Moyles of Edmonton Temple, has partnered with Crest Books, which is the imprint of the U.S.A. National Headquarters. The result is a well-produced 153-page paperback, *I Knew William Booth: An Album of Remembrances*.

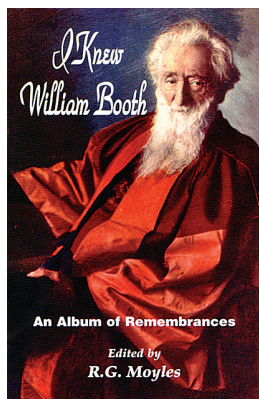
In 15 chapters, Moyles enables a variety of writers to present as diverse a portrait of William Booth as one is to find anywhere. The range of views of the Army Founder is wide, with all but three being written by non-Salvationists. It is difficult for Salvationists today to realize the high regard so many had for Booth, particularly in his later years. He received the attention of the world's press usually reserved for heads of state. Wherever he went, this tall gaunt man with the flashing eyes, the patriarchal white beard and the raspy voice received an abundance of press coverage.

The compiler provides a helpful and detailed introduction, which gives needed historical and interpretative context. Speaking of the various writers, he comments, "They provide not only a remarkable record of personal affection by people who knew and loved him, but also create a revealing portrait of his personality, eccentricities, work habits, family loyalties and spiritual gifts." Each chapter commences with a helpful paragraph by Moyles, which gives details of the source of the writing and some incisive insight. Period photographs and drawings enhance the text.

Moyles draws these portraits from a wide variety of sources, such as *The Congregationalist* (1895), the *Canadian Methodist Magazine* (1906), *The Daily Chronicle* (1912) and Begbie's *The Life of General William Booth* (1926), recently reprinted and now available. From these book and magazine excerpts we are able to build a composite portrait of Booth the man. We see the detail of his home life, we become aware again of his power as a revivalist preacher, and we recapture the intensity with which politicians, prelates and ordinary people listened to him and took note of his pronouncements.

Gordon Moyles has saved us much labour, for few would have ready access to the varied material that this book contains. Salvationists and those who know and love the Army would be wise to take this excursion in thought that *I Knew William Booth* offers.

For more summer reading suggestions, see resources on page 17 or visit supplies and purchasing online at [SalvationArmy.ca/store](http://SalvationArmy.ca/store)



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Do God and sports mix? For a growing number of congregations, the answer is “yes.” Discover how Salvationists across the territory are coaching their neighbours—in teamwork and in faith

# Building God's Dream Team



In the Army's Pond Hockey League, Jesus is the team Captain

## Hockey Night in Kitchener

by Christopher Graves, Kitchener Community Church, Ont.

There is a look of sheer terror that comes across a five-year-old's face when, geared up in hockey equipment for the first time, he peers through the door at a massive ice surface dotted with colourful jerseys. Not far behind stands a worried parent, uncertain whether his child's experience is going to end before skates hit the ice.

Then something remarkable happens. A volunteer coach arrives from the other end of the rink to reassure and guide the fledgling player. By the time the session ends, the child has a smile that stretches from ear to ear.

The Salvation Army Pond Hockey League (PHL), sponsored by Kitchener Community Church, sees this scenario played out each fall as 90 kids take to the ice for what has become a significant ministry in the community. Volunteer coaches, ranging from school teachers to investment advisors, spend their Saturdays helping girls and boys to get their skates and sticks to all go in the same direction.

The PHL, a combination of skills development and shinny, gives kids a chance to experience hockey, some for the first time, others for whom minor hockey or another competitive league does not fit. PHL kids come from every background imaginable, but once they are on the ice the blue and red jerseys remove differences of race,

colour and capacity and provide a barrier-free environment.

Hockey is just the conduit for a more important message. The real action happens at centre ice when the skating stops mid-game as kids and coaches share about “God's team.” It's those 10-minute devotionals that make the most impact on kids. Rather than stories about first goals and missed chances, the talk in the dressing room after the game is about the joy of being on a team that accepts everyone.

The PHL has been delivering the same message for years. Volunteers serve kids each week as families cheer, encourage, laugh and celebrate together. This league puts God first, agenda-free relationships second and somewhere behind, the pursuit of a black disc around a big sheet of ice. Visitors' reaction to the PHL is always the same: “Why don't our games look like that?” or “Everybody is having a great time. What's the secret?” or best of all “Where can I sign up?”

The same concept shapes Kidzone on Monday nights in the church gym. After an hour of sports, kids take a time-out to share about Jesus, the team “Captain.” One community mother shared how excited her kids were to know that Jesus wants them on his team. Those sessions build real community for kids and their families. And the message makes it home.

The formula for Kidzone is simple. It's all about Jesus. During that 10-minute devotional, every kid and coach knows that they have a place on God's team. And for those kids with challenges, mental health issues, physical and emotional scars, family hurts or just plain growing-up stuff, they learn Jesus' promise: “I will never leave you.” When Jesus is the team Captain, the fun takes care of itself.



# He Shoots, He Scores!

by Darryl Burry

*Family Life Pastor, Kelowna Community Church, B.C.*

Reaching out to the community can be a challenge. Developing a relationship with a teenager is even tougher. There are so many influences pulling our children in different directions. At Kelowna Community Church, we are reaching young people in our community in a way that enables us to develop strong, lasting relationships.

In 2003 we began a youth ball hockey league. With the help of church volunteers, we opened our doors Friday evenings in an attempt to share God's love with the youth of our community. We were thrilled when 30 children showed up.

The following year, we took the outreach ministry to the next level by opening up the church on a second night and dividing the youth by age group. Monday nights was junior ball hockey night (7-11 years), and on Fridays the senior group played (12-18 years). As a result, we doubled our numbers. These days, it's



Sporting events in Kelowna provide opportunities to touch young people's lives

not unusual for us to host up to 150 children per week.

The highlight of the league is the annual Ball Hockey Tournament in March, which begins Friday evening after supper and runs until late Saturday afternoon. Two outside rinks are set up for the tournament, with industrial lighting brought in so games can continue throughout the night.

Preparation for this event starts months ahead of time as arrangements are made for fencing, lighting, awards and trophies. The week of the tournament, we create team signage, purchase food for meals and concession, and confirm the schedule with players and coaches.

At 5:30 p.m., a flurry of activity begins as children, teens and their parents gather to register. By 6 p.m. the tournament begins. At 1 a.m., it's time for a rest before volunteers arrive at 6 a.m. to cook a pancake breakfast for participants and their families. The tournament resumes at 8:00 a.m. During the lunch hour, a radar gun is used as kids compete for the hardest shot. At 1 p.m., it's time for the playoffs. Each team gives it their all and by 4 p.m. there is a champion in each division.

Numerous awards are given out for each division so that every child goes away with something. In those 24 hours, we connect with over 200 community people. In the past two years, we have

seen children and their parents transition from ball hockey to our fine-arts programs, youth groups, Christian education nights and Sunday morning worship.

Each sporting event that we hold, whether it's ball hockey or our Wednesday afternoon basketball drop-in, provides us with the opportunity to reach into the lives of young people, to provide them with a safe alternative to the world. We let them know that they are loved and that they have a purpose.

Recently, a group of teen boys who attend our basketball drop-in travelled to Portland, Oregon, U.S.A., to The Salvation Army's Doris Verbout Memorial Basketball Tournament. Many of them had never been to church before, so this tournament, with its emphasis on spiritual matters and evangelism, was an eye-opener. The overwhelming response was not "That was a great basketball tournament," but rather, "Wow, that Christian music was cool" or "I liked what the speaker had to say about God."

Our philosophy at Kelowna is "Start Small, Start Now!" We need to do anything and everything we can to reach our community. Sports ministry is easy. All it takes is ministry-minded volunteers, basic equipment and a passion to reach young people for Christ. The sport will draw them in. Your expression of Christ's love for them will change their lives.

## Completing the Cycle

by Major David Pearo

*Corps Officer, Richmond Hill Community Church, Ont.*

When Beth and I were appointed to Richmond Hill Community Church three years ago, we found ourselves working with a leadership team that was struggling with how to be "The Salvation Army" to their affluent neighbours. Rather than offering more social services, we decided to join the rhythm of the community, which centres on sport, particularly hockey.

To our advantage, the Salvation Army Junior Hockey League (SAJHL), which began 36 years ago, was functioning in our area with a yearly registration of 265 young people. A dialogue began to unfold and two key questions were asked: Should our congregation be in the business of providing hockey for Christian kids? If so, could the league be used as a tool for reaching out to non-Christian children as well?



At Richmond Hill, every child is recognized for their participation



We quickly determined that we wanted a Christian hockey league that would touch Christian and non-Christian children alike. With this in mind, we partnered with divisional headquarters, assuming leadership of the SAJHL. Over the past two years we have intentionally implemented a three-stage Unified Sports Outreach Cycle.

### Stage 1: Relationship Building

Although many of our players come from church backgrounds, roughly 40 percent are from non-Christian homes. Through the SAJHL we build a high level of trust between the players, coaches, parents and The Salvation Army. Each coach is mandated to encourage self-worth in every player as well as enhance their hockey skills. This has been accomplished by giving equal ice time for all players, nominating a Player of the Match, encouraging affirmation from coaches or simply getting together with teammates who have become good friends. We are also partnering with local companies who sponsor individual teams and support our league.

Even in this high-income community, there are families who find the high costs of hockey prohibitive for their children. For this reason, our community ministries office has partnered with a local school to sponsor four selected students. We cover all the costs of registration and equipment, thereby allowing them to participate.

The program's success is best illustrated by the comments of parents of sponsored children: "My son's behaviour has improved so much at home because he loves hockey and would never want me to cancel it" and "My son finally feels like he is part of something, that he is included and he matters."

### Stage 2: Teaching Level

Richmond Hill Community Church is actively involved in the leadership of the Army's divisional sports camp at Jackson's Point, Ont. Every player in the SAJHL Novice and Junior Divisions receives an invitation to the Army's camp, which gives the players an opportunity not only to hone their skills in hockey, soccer and basketball but to learn about Jesus as well. Large group Bible teaching, small group discussion and the cabin devotional material all focus on sports-related themes. Of the 135 campers in 2006, 46 made first-time commitments for Christ and 33 rededicated their lives to serving him.

### Stage 3: Follow-up

Every player without a church home is intentionally followed up through direct contact during the off-season and is encouraged to participate in local church programming. This is a crucial component of the outreach cycle. All too often we invest vast amounts of energy in our programming, yet when it comes to follow-up we fail miserably. We are currently partnering with divisional headquarters to create a new sports ministry co-ordinator position for our church.

In many ways youth and sport are a defining characteristic of Richmond Hill Community Church. We find this call of God influencing many of the decisions about church programming and the nature of future facilities. Our one overriding conviction is that God is crazy about kids and he has called us to show them his love by engaging them in fun and faith.

To learn more about the SAJHL, visit the league website at [www.sajhl.com](http://www.sajhl.com)

## Take Me Out to the Ball Game

by Bruce Ivany

*Slo-pitch Coach, Cascade Community Church, Abbotsford, B.C.*

**W**e know baseball is mentioned many times in the Bible: Eve stole first, Adam stole second, Gideon rattled the pitchers, Goliath was put out by David, Ruth won fame in the field and Joshua made a "rubble play" with the downing of the walls of Jericho. OK, so the last example is weak, but Cascade Community Church in Abbotsford, B.C., knew it made "biblical" sense to enter a team in our community slo-pitch league.

The team plays an April-July schedule of 18 games plus a playoff tournament against other churches. There are 20 players on the roster and at any given point in the game, there are three female and seven male players on the field. Each game starts with both teams gathering at the pitcher's mound for prayer and concludes with a handshake.

What makes a slo-pitch team a ministry?

- **Intergenerational impact.** Members in our slo-pitch league range in age from 17 to the early 50s, providing a setting where all ages can interact. This often carries over to Sundays at church when team members enjoy a laugh, relive the previous day's game and encourage each other. The popularity of the league is catching on with young people, many of whom can't wait to turn 16 so they can join.
- **The unique mix of people.** Players come from various walks of life and include a cook, youth pastor, day-care worker, school district administrator, salesperson and business owner. You're as likely to see a high-school student high-fiving a school teacher after a base hit as a university student encouraging her mom, the pitcher.
- **Opportunities for fellowship.** There are those on the team who have just started to attend the church as well as those who have been members for more than 20 years. A family new to the community and looking for a church home found out that we had a slo-pitch team and say it is part of the reason they chose to attend.



Joining a team is a great way to get to know people from other churches in Abbotsford.



Here's what some of the players are saying about our slo-pitch league:

**James:** "I joined the team because I missed playing a competitive sport. The slo-pitch league is a great way to get to know people from other churches."

**Pam:** "I meet people from the church that I might not get to talk to on Sunday. We cheer each other on and the encouragement is contagious."

**Jenny:** "A friend told me about the team and I joined to get more involved with the church. The benefit for me is socializing with other members of the congregation."



Sporting activities at summer camps help kids reach their goals

## H.E.A.R.T. of a Champion

by Valerie Pavey, THQ Corps Ministries

It's a beautiful hot summer day. If you listen carefully you can hear bouncing basketballs, soccer balls impacting against cleats, or hockey pucks ricocheting off the boards of a rink. Above it all you hear kids' laughter. These are sounds of a Salvation Army sports camp. But in the cool of the evening, you will hear something more wonderful: kids singing and worshipping God together, something most have never done before.

Many young people are involved in school and community league sports. These activities are a great opportunity to develop skills and to connect with others in the community. Sports camp continues this training, but it also creates an opportunity for faith development.

My husband and I have developed Bible programs tailored specifically for sports camp such as R.E.A.C.H. the Goal or H.E.A.R.T. of a Champion. Based around daily themes, they

help kids connect sports activities with biblical truths, fun-loving songs, humorous drama and life lessons. For example, campers hear the story of Nehemiah, who prayed to God, his "Coach," in order to achieve the goal of building Jerusalem's wall. Or they learn about Ananias' need for an attitude adjustment when God brought Paul over to Christ's team. The strength and endurance needed for sports is related to the challenges of following Jesus at home or school.

Further connections are made when the campers move into "huddle groups" in cabins at night where they discuss what they learned earlier, share concerns and pray for one another under the direction of caring counsellors.

Leaders and counsellors are carefully chosen for their athletic skills, but more importantly need a solid faith to share with young people. Because what resounds loudest of all is not the bouncing balls or the scraping of hockey sticks, but the sound of young people discovering that they are loved.

Valerie and Steve Pavey's Sports Camp Bible Programs R.E.A.C.H. the Goal and H.E.A.R.T. of a Champion are available from the THQ corps ministries department.

## The Winning Goal


by Captain Michael Simpson

Georgetown Community Church, Ont.

In Georgetown, hockey is a major part of many families' lives. For the last nine years, children ages 6-13 have been filling the parking lot at Georgetown Community Church, playing for the opportunity to score that winning goal. For two hours on Tuesday evenings from April to June, families come together at the church to cheer each other on. What sometimes looks like chaos is, in fact, a well-oiled operation. On any given night there are upwards of 110 players, plus family members and 25-30 volunteers who set up, tear down, coach, referee, keep time, keep score, run the barbecue and mingle with parents.

Things aren't always perfect, but opportunities are present to build and nurture relationships. Playing in a relatively non-competitive environment allows kids to relax and enjoy themselves. Parents can interact with each other, free from the competitive atmosphere of the "rink." All of this builds a better community.

Offering a ball hockey league is just the beginning. The ultimate goal is to see lives transformed by Christ. This doesn't always happen right away. People need to feel comfortable, that they belong and are truly cared for. This happens over time through intentional efforts. At the end of the season we survey parents to see what can be improved and to collect contact information to keep them informed of future events such as VBS or sports days.

1 Peter 4:10 tells us: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." At the end of the day, when the last shot is taken and the last hamburger served, this is what matters: that God's gifts were used to glorify his name. At Georgetown Community Church, we are blessed with individuals who thrive and excel at serving others. Our ball hockey season is simply an avenue for them to express this. Whatever gifts God has given you, use them and he will more than match the energy you spend. 



# The New Brass Band

Why it will always have an important place in our ministry

The rhythm of summer is such a refreshing change as we turn off the heat, head outdoors and live at a different pace than we do the rest of the year. I look forward to reading a pile of books and to the activities of my annual vacation. Among our holiday plans this summer, my wife, Eleanor, and I will be involved on the staff of senior music camp at Jackson's Point, Ontario Central-East Division. It has been a few years since we last went to music camp and I'm a bit apprehensive about how our aging bodies will handle the pace. That said, I'm sure the richness of the experience will more than compensate for the fatigue.

Music camp has become part of the culture of The Salvation Army. In the

Was it worth the effort and the expense? Did it connect? Did it serve our mission? Passionate voices were heard on each side of the debate.

As discussions wore on, the band movement seemed to decline. More significantly, brass band enthusiasts seemed to lose confidence in the future of Salvation Army bands. A major article on Army banding in Canada concluded that its future would depend on action taken by territorial administration. So are Eleanor and I heading off to spend a week of our holidays investing in something that's just going to disappear anyway? I don't think so, because the Army band is re-inventing itself.

For one thing, the music has changed.



**Colonel Glen Shepherd**  
Chief Secretary



Colonel Glen Shepherd is an active bandsman at his home corps of Agincourt CC, Toronto

*Banding is about finding ways to connect with people and allowing them to participate*

years since I last attended, it has evolved to become a meeting place that promotes a wide variety of expressions under the rubric of "gospel arts." The formerly dominant brass band is just part of the palette.

The assault on the central place of the band in Salvation Army worship began during my university days in the 1960s, as many people questioned how our identity seemed to be built around our brass bands.

Bands are learning to exploit the remarkable flexibility of the medium. Yesterday's programs of dense, serious music are giving way to a more balanced repertoire that caters to a broad range of tastes. Music reflects the culture from which it springs. In a way, we have recaptured the genius of the 19th-century town band that played the music of its generation.

Another, even more significant, change is the rediscovery of the band as a true

outreach tool. Music leaders are using brass bands as a way to reach out into the community and to connect with people at different levels of corps involvement. I've witnessed several examples of that in recent weeks.

At Agincourt Community Church, Toronto, where we attend, the youth band exists as a program to attract neighbourhood kids who want to be part of this kind of music group. In Richmond Hill, Ont., one of the Army's newer church plants, a community music program has been instrumental in bringing several young people to church. Montreal Citadel has embarked on a Blast of Brass program that invites community people of all ages to learn a brass instrument—in fact, there are three generations from one family all playing in the group. And London Citadel, Ont., operates with four bands from learners to the corps' senior band and a fellowship band for those who want to experience a band without the disciplined commitment of membership in the corps band.

The point is bigger than the band. It's about looking out of our own immediate circle, finding ways to connect with people and allowing them to participate. Today's brass band is a lot more flexible than the model that I grew up with. But it still offers people a chance to feel the joy of belonging to a group and of expressing their faith and devotion in an artistic way.

When I wrote in my will that I wanted an Army band to play at my funeral, one of my friends joked that I'd better die soon to ensure there would still be a band left to play. But I'm not worried, because I know that bands are adapting. I plan to live a long time—and there will be an Army band to play me good-bye. S

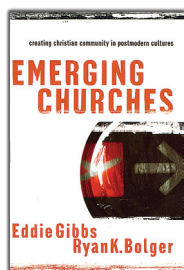


## Emerging Churches

**Creating Christian community in post-modern cultures**

by **Eddie Gibbs and Ryan K. Bolger**

Think the emerging church is just about wrought-iron candlesticks and prayer stations? Gibbs and Bolger give valuable insight into the deeper values shaping ministries for postmoderns in today's much-altered Western world.

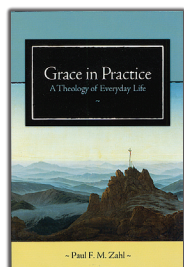


## Grace in Practice

**A theology of everyday life**

by **Paul F. M. Zahl**

No matter how much we talk about salvation by grace, in our can-do society we often cling to a righteousness by works. *Grace in Practice* will reward any Christian who seeks to understand the full measure of God's grace and the total freedom it offers.

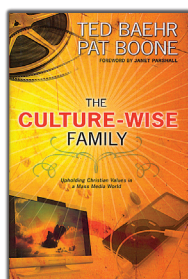


## The Culture-Wise Family

**Upholding Christian values in a mass media world**

by **Ted Baehr and Pat Boone**

How do you raise a family in a world supersaturated with values that are not your own? In this clear, concise guide, you can learn to make wise choices about the mass media and entertainment you choose, and gain the information you need to be more than overcomers in the midst of an increasingly toxic culture.

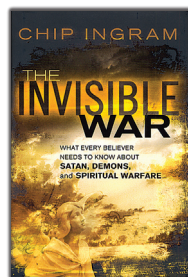


## The Invisible War

**What every believer needs to know about Satan, demons and spiritual warfare**

by **Chip Ingram**

The Bible is clear—if you are a Christian, you are at war. *The Invisible War* will help you understand your position in Christ, put on the full armour of God and stand firm against the enemy.

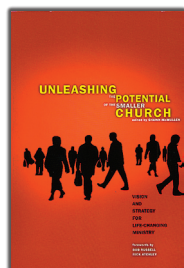


## Unleashing the Potential of the Small Church

**Vision and strategy for life-changing ministry**

Edited by **Shawn McCullen**

Small churches can be above average. Each chapter, written by various church leaders, addresses the unique problems and opportunities of small congregations, with practical ideas for every aspect of ministry.

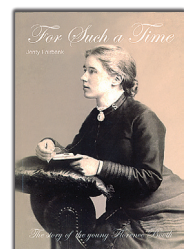


## For Such a Time

**The story of young Florence Booth**

by **Jenty Fairbank**

Drawing heavily on Florence Booth's teenage memoirs, this book describes her feelings about joining The Salvation Army and marrying Bramwell Booth, the perils of pioneering the work in Paris and her involvement in the campaign against sex trafficking.

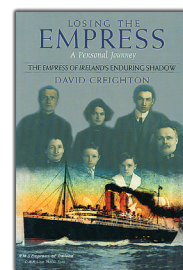


## Losing the Empress

**The Empress of Ireland's Enduring Shadow**

by **David Creighton**

In this personal journey, the author delves into the lives of his grandparents—Salvation Army officers who were lost on the *Empress*—and the lives of five orphaned children who were soon plunged into the First World War. His discoveries reveal amazing details about the tragedy that left such a lasting impact on The Salvation Army in Canada for years to come.

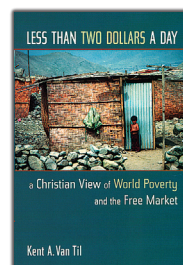


## Less Than Two Dollars a Day

**A Christian view of world poverty and the free market**

by **Kent A. Van Til**

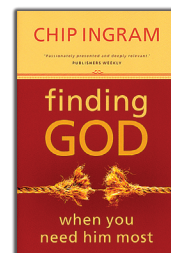
For those befuddled by the jargon of theology and economics, this very readable book is a gem by an outstanding expert in both fields. Like Christ's mission, it is "good news for the poor" and a stirring appeal to the consciences of Christians and other persons of goodwill.



## Finding God When You Need Him Most

by **Chip Ingram**

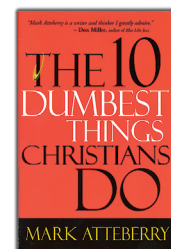
Discover how to meet God in the midst of your most difficult circumstances. Ingram's candid discussion, personal stories and solid guidance will allow you to move from "knowing about God" to profoundly experiencing his presence and power in your life.



## The 10 Dumbest Things Christians Can Do

by **Mark Atteberry**

Every day Christians make the devil laugh. He snickers as we repeatedly make foolish mistakes that hinder the Kingdom and break God's heart. This well-reasoned, Scripture-supported book is a timely wake-up call for all Christians to look at the damage we often do unwittingly and change our ways to be effective ministers for Christ.



## Every Day Deserves a Chance

by **Max Lucado**

Suppose, neck deep in a tough day, you decide not to worry it away but to give it a fair shake. You trust more, stress less. Amplify gratitude, mute complaints. Best-selling author Max Lucado shares how you can live a better life by giving every day a chance to be a good one.



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# THE DIGITAL DYNAMIC

How digital communications are transforming the Church

by M. Rex Miller

Canadian educator and philosopher Marshall McLuhan famously declared, “The medium is the message.” As digital media become the dominant means of communication, they will usher in a new paradigm, transforming how we think, behave, relate and create.

Television entered homes less than 60 years ago and swiftly changed almost every aspect of human life—from business

and education to politics, sports and the Church. Now, digital equipment such as computers, cellphones and BlackBerry devices are beginning to produce an even more radical transformation of our lives.

For clues to what may happen in the years ahead, let’s look at what occurred as a result of two previous revolutions in the dominant medium of communications—the shift from oral communications to printed media in the 16th century and

the more recent shift from print media to broadcasting.

## Printing Innovation

When Johannes Gutenberg invented movable type around 1450, he initiated a revolution in communications. Gutenberg’s Bible became a best-seller and the art of printing spread rapidly. Within 70 years, Europe had more than a thousand printers. Books had become widely available,



soon to be followed by newspapers and magazines.

Unlike the earlier oral tradition of handing down stories, printed words remained fixed in space and motionless over time. This permanence allowed readers to return to the same words again and again, examining and testing them from many different perspectives.

Printed literature enabled linear, “rational” thought to supplant the “irrational” thought of the oral world. Understanding through analysis began replacing understanding through dialogue. With printing, the West exploded with new discoveries, as books nourished the Renaissance, the Reformation and the Enlightenment.

The dominance of print communications led to analytic, rational minds that saw the world as parts assembled in an orderly whole. Mainline Protestant denominations, birthed during this time, still carry the original DNA of a print worldview. Their organizations tend to be hierarchical, systematic, bureaucratic, knowledge-based, rule-based, slow to adapt and declining in membership. Their architecture is based on rational design, where “form follows function.” Based on the unerring certainty of Scripture, the sermon mostly reinforces a systematic presentation of the gospel. Worship, expressed through congregational hymns, provides rich expressions of church doctrines. This rational, systematic and certain worldview is sometimes referred to as modernism.

### Broadcast Revolution

Print continues to play a critically important role in communications, but in the 1950s, it lost its dominance to television. Millions of people sitting at home could now watch stirring events in faraway places and see the world’s leaders more frequently and up close than their next-door neighbours. Television broke down barriers, as poor people could now see how the rich actually lived, and people of every colour could view the realities of racial segregation. Americans could watch the horrors of the Vietnam War, even as their government could not explain away its failures.

Print had made reason king and stimulated reflective thinking. But broadcast elevated desire and emotion, encouraging reflexive thinking—the kind of thinking we do while driving a car. Television demands only our attention and reaction, requiring of us no analysis, no historical perspective, no connection to any other event. Printed words drive us toward reaching a conclusion or having a perspective, but television

images leave information open to many meanings. They encourage us to keep our options open and “go with the flow.”

Many evangelical churches, birthed during this era, carry the DNA of broadcast culture. They tend to be headed by single visionary leaders whose personalities and vision drive the organizations more than process and structure. Their membership continues to increase due to their ability to gauge the pulse of their audience. They are quick to adopt rather than to adapt. The architecture takes full advantage of broadcast’s strength to create a mass experience. The sermon mostly aims to make a common everyday connection, drawing viewers into a highly distilled element of truth. Worship tends toward a celebration-

format. Our basis of knowing and understanding is shifting to an interactive, global, anytime-anywhere, multimedia experience, with countless sources to explore and test. It is quite different from the intellectually passive experience of watching television or the emotionally distant experience of reading. Consequently, our minds and bodies will undergo a rewiring to support how we see and view our world.

Convergence is perhaps the key characteristic of the coming Digital Era, as print, graphics, sounds and data can all now reside in a single medium, such as a CD or DVD, reproduced through a common digital language of bits and bytes. Digital data make no distinction between that snapshot of your child on a pony, a series



style concert, engaging the audience with upbeat rhythms and simplified themes. This existential, entrepreneurial and fluid worldview is sometimes referred to as post-modernism.

### Digital Explosion

The Print Era lasted 400 years. The Broadcast Era will have a much shorter run. Already its dominance is yielding to digital media, which will likely become the dominant means of communication by 2010.

Digital media combine text, graphics, sound and data in such a way that we experience things in a much more integrated, multisensory and multi-networked

of geological calculations or the sound of a Bach cantata. They are all merely sequences of zeros and ones.

In the digital world, old boundaries that once separated physics, poetry, metaphysics and other disciplines are beginning to blur. Nanotechnology is emerging as a world-transforming science, uniting physics, chemistry and biology. AT&T, AOL and Time Warner, Inc., all began as separate businesses—a phone company, an Internet service provider and a news magazine. Each was based on different technologies (telephone wire, cyber technologies, printing press), but digital technologies provided them with a common platform and they merged into one new entity.



## Qualities of the Digital World

The new digital world is characterized by seven qualities:

**1. Interconnection.** We used to live in a “domino world,” in which one change logically caused the next. Now we have entered a chain-reaction world of exponential shifts. Interconnection means that our problems and opportunities are now intimately linked. Emerging networks—virtual communities based on common interests—have begun to level our hierarchical organizations.

**2. Complexity.** Complex systems behave in complex ways. Changing one line of computer code can cause ripple effects that move through the systems in many different ways. Faced with such complexity, old analytical tools cannot anticipate the potential consequences of actions. A single word from a prominent economist may cause financial markets to collapse and governments to fall.

**3. Acceleration.** Each new technology

and data can all reside in a digital medium, such as a CD or DVD, in the form of a binary code of zeros and ones. In digital media, previous boundaries of knowledge and organizations blur, crumble and eventually integrate in new ways.

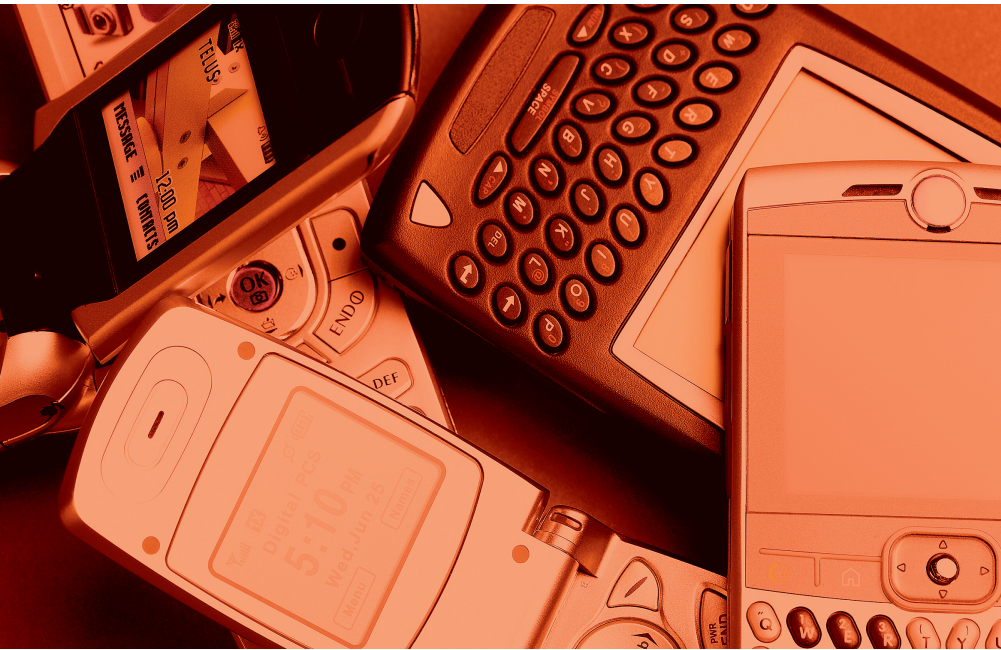
**6. Immediacy.** Digital media shrink the time allowed between question and answer, request and fulfillment. We are now expected to respond to the world with a speed similar to that required of fighter pilots in combat. There is little or no time for reflection in an environment that changes at high speed in an irregular, disorderly manner.

**7. Unpredictability.** Complex, highly interactive systems behave unpredictably. As a result, well-intentioned attempts to improve conditions may actually worsen them. A legal system that heavily penalizes doctors who make mistakes may cause them to give up their practices, thus increasing the number of people who are sick or incapacitated.

work differently from the television kids a generation ago.

In the emerging digital culture, children do not grind out their lessons by rote memorization. No longer content to sit passively in front of the television, they are absorbed in an interactive-game environment, pursuing treasure hunts of knowledge over the Web. They integrate what they learn, expanding far beyond the assignment and retaining a high level of enthusiasm.

For youngsters using digital media, self-directed learning is quickly becoming the new normal. In the coming years, teachers will move away from being grade specialists to becoming general facilitators handling several grades at a time. In a virtual little red schoolhouse, technology will afford a shift back to the teaching relationship. Continuity will lead to greater effectiveness, and that effectiveness will create opportunities for mentors and higher levels of fulfillment for all concerned.



leads to faster change, quickening the pace of human life. The increasing speed of communications accelerates business transactions, which in turn lead to more production, marketing, capital growth, investment and the rapid development of new technologies.

**4. Intangibility.** In the new digital environment, we have little or no connection to the original sources of information and things we buy, use or believe. We are moving away from a world we can touch and hold to a world that operates on intangibles such as information and reputation.

**5. Convergence.** Print, graphics, sound

## Rethinking Our Institutions

Today's schools are likely to rely increasingly on digital media—and for good reason. So many of the challenges they face, from rising costs and textbook obsolescence to flexible schedules and parental involvement, have solutions in the new technologies. Children not yet in school are adeptly using computers to send messages to their friends and downloading MP3 music files from the Internet. They soon learn how to use search engines such as Google to get information and put together multimedia presentations for class projects. These digital kids are learning to think and

## Impact on the Church

I refer to emerging churches in the digital era as convergence organizations. They carry the DNA of the seven criteria of Interconnection, Complexity, Acceleration, Intangibility, Convergence, Immediacy and Unpredictability. Their organizations tend to be horizontal, holistic, networked, learning-based, collaborative, highly adaptive and ever-changing. Architecture provides a means to multiple ends and is not necessarily the central force and identifier. Facilities are more distributed, embedded in their communities and multi-purposed. The foundation of truth finds new power in the wisdom of the faith community as an interconnected and dynamic assembly. Sermons are highly interactive, rediscovering epic storytelling and adopting more non-linear open-ended techniques. Worship is highly interactive—not necessarily led by a single leader—fusing traditional and contemporary themes. It is becoming more indigenous—created by and for the local congregation and rediscovering many of oral culture's sensibilities toward ritual re-enactment and body ministry. This holistic, interactive, convergent worldview moves beyond modernism and postmodernism, leading us into a radically new era psychologically, socially and spiritually.

## Facing the Digital Challenge

Clearly, managing the transition into the Digital Era will not be easy or problem-free. We must expect challenges in most of



our institutions, including our churches. We need to rethink and rebuild them for what lies ahead.

A few years ago, I spent several hours with an oil company executive charged with designing and constructing the firm's oil tankers. This helped me construct my own mental picture of how to build for an

iceberg at seven knots. Without dropping anchor, they must maintain a stable position while buffeted by 15-metre waves. To cope with such a turbulent, hostile environment, North Atlantic tankers have powerful stabilizers and multiple redundant systems acting as safeguards and backups.

## *Today's institutions must navigate stormy seas of social and technological change*

environment of turbulent change.


Building an oil tanker is an amazing feat. The number of details is mind-boggling and the obstacles are incredible, especially if it is being designed to face the North Atlantic, the most treacherous environment of all. Remember the Titanic!

North Atlantic tankers must be able to withstand a head-on collision with an





These tankers give us a phenomenal metaphor for today's institutions to consider as they rebuild themselves for the challenges of the Digital Era. In a similar way, today's churches, along with other institutions, must navigate stormy seas of social and technological change. Unfortunately, we are still building the social equivalent of vacation cruise liners—large, slow structures built for balmy seas and friendly ports

of call. These “cruise liner” institutions may be more user-friendly, but they are built for calm seas and a sunny horizon, and that is not what we are likely to get.

Today, we need schools, churches and business organizations that are built like North Atlantic tankers to meet the colossal waves of largely unpredictable social change. They need to be highly agile and fast-changing, with extra capacity, powerful stabilizers and buffers, like the double hulls of the tankers.

Redesigning our institutions for the stresses and opportunities of the Digital Era is the greatest challenge we face. 

*Author M. Rex Miller has spent the last 25 years researching social changes through the lens of communications. Three of his passions—communications, religion and business—powerfully shape his book, Millenium Matrix: Reclaiming the Past, Reframing the Future of the Church (Jossey-Bass, 2004).*

Eras ➡	 <b>Oral</b>	 <b>Print</b>	 <b>Broadcast</b>	 <b>Digital</b>
<b>Collective Memory</b>	Based on family stories passed down from previous generations	Held in encyclopedias, dictionaries, libraries, museums, schools	Seen through documentaries allowing viewers to relive the past	Research through networking, user groups, search engines and virtual communities
<b>Identity</b>	Rooted in tribal village	People come into contact with wider array of individuals	People interact with an even wider array of people through radio and television	Intimate and instantaneous contact with people around the globe through cyberspace
<b>Truth</b>	Related to credibility of messenger	Based on content of message, as written language opens way for analysis and opinion	Validated through experience; reality of the moment supersedes abstract concepts	Truth is malleable and changes to suit context; validated by community
<b>Reasoning</b>	Using questions and answers to seek a balanced position between two concepts	Linear thought arrives at either/or conclusion; logic offers closure	Understanding becomes uncertain and subjective and is no longer fixed	Reality is complex and interconnected; individual events appear random
<b>Learning</b>	Process-centred; comes through sitting at feet of a master or guru	Content-centred; standardized learning offers equal education for all	Experience-centred; learning is supplemented with audio/visual media	Context-centred; collective experience takes priority over individual needs
<b>Work</b>	Farm; grow the crop and harvest the reward	Factory; goal is to produce more at a lower cost	Service; consumer information used to create demand	Federation; individual producers network together
<b>Building Wealth</b>	Land	Capital and manufacturing	Distribution and debt	Creativity and community
<b>Sense of Time</b>	Present; no recorded history	Past; sense of passing time created through printed word	Impermanence; no past or future, just a fleeting present	Virtual time travel; world is simultaneously seen, heard, felt, experienced
<b>Management</b>	Steward	Manager	Leader	Networker/facilitator
<b>Chief Value</b>	Reliability	Productivity	Quality	Creativity
<b>Production</b>	People take what they can get	People take what they need	People take what they want	People design what they want
<b>Medium of Exchange</b>	Barter and trade	Currency	Credit	E-Commerce (online trade)
<b>Art</b>	Symbolic	Perspective	Concept or process	Interaction or participation



# Summer Camp: A Bold New Direction

The Army unveils a plan for its Ontario camping ministries that invests money where it counts—in kids

**T**ug-of-wars and water fights. C scales and theory classes. Canteen treats and late-night cabin devotions. Campfire chants of “Oskie woskie, sis boom bah!” Even sunburns and bug bites. These are the cherished memories of Salvation Army camps. Every generation has a story about summers spent at camp, and the Army is committed not only to continue but to enhance this vital ministry.

Starting next year, the Army is moving to an integrated camping model in Ontario. Following the sale of Camp Selkirk as part of divisional restructuring in 2003, former divisional camps Glenhuron and Roblin Lake are also being sold in order to consolidate our camping programs at Jackson’s Point and Camp Newport. A new Camp at Home initiative will also make available two roving teams of counsellors to operate day-camps in specific communities.

*Salvationist* sat down with Major Alf Richardson, DC, Ontario Great Lakes Division, and chair of the camping task force, to discuss the changes and what they will mean for campers and staff.

## **Salvationist: Why has the Army consolidated its Ontario camps?**

**Major Alf Richardson:** One of the reasons for moving to a provincial concept is to free up dollars to enhance programming. When we compared Army camps with our competitors, we realized that we fell short. More can be done, but programming costs money. Our aim is not to reduce the overall budget for camping in the province, but to re-allocate dollars to improve programming. Instead of pouring money into maintenance and upkeep, we’re investing it where it counts—in kids.

The amount of money to maintain and operate separate camping sites was

astronomical, even as the number of camping days per year was rapidly decreasing. Currently, our fresh-air camps start at lunchtime on Monday and finish after



breakfast on Friday. Looking at two representative camps, I counted more than 30 wasted days in 2005 when nobody was even there. Last year one of our music camps had more people on faculty than campers.

In addition, our previous plan to run camping all year round never took off. Newport, Glenhuron and Robin Lake were winterized in hopes of tapping into the school market. But we soon discovered that it’s a very volatile market because every time there is a dollar crunch in education, they cut the camping programs first.

We believe we can do camping better, especially for our internal Army market.

Peter Bloom, an Ontario camping consultant, reminded our committee that we don’t do enough for our own Salvationist young people. A lot of places consolidate their junior soldier camps with fresh-air camps so they don’t have to do double programming. While it’s good to get Christian and unchurched kids to mix, sometimes it means we slip up when it comes to more intentional discipleship with our youth.

**Many people in the Army have a very personal connection to our camps. It’s where they developed friendships, spent formative years and made decisions for Christ. What would you say to those who are grieving the loss of specific camps?**

I understand the emotional attachment to camps. In the Army, we’ve gone through similar grieving processes with corps relocations and closures. It does cause anxiety and pain, but you have to move on and trust. I tell people to keep their memories alive by sharing them with others. It will probably take a generation before the grieving is done. The good news is that kids embarking on the new camping experience will begin forming their own memories, and the ministry will continue.

It’s important to look back and appreciate the tremendous role that specific camps have played in the lives of adults and young people. At Camp Selkirk, in the former Ontario South Division, there was a closing ceremony after a music camp program where everybody lowered the flag together and stayed for a barbecue. There was a guest speaker from the first summer camp and people shared memories. We are planning a similar event at Camp Glenhuron in Ontario Great Lakes Division on Labour Day weekend.

Next summer, when the new program starts, we’ll start it off with a bang! We want to reach our goal of increasing the variety of programs and the professionalism of our camp model. We don’t want to erase people’s memories, but we want them to catch the vision of our bold new direction.

## **Describe the decision-making process. Who was consulted?**

A territorial camping task force was appointed by the territorial commander in 2002, composed of lay leaders, officers and camping personnel from across the territory. They published a report in May



2003 recommending the Army consider regionalizing its camping ministry. The report acknowledged that Ontario was the only area of Canada with multiple camps in close proximity, including Camps Madawaska and Rainbow.

The Ontario Central divisional leaders' council then established a study committee of lay Salvationists and officers from all the Ontario divisions to thoroughly explore the ramifications of regionalization. That included a weekend think-tank where we explored what a regional site or sites would look like and how we could enhance the camping programs, improve our staff expertise and create sustainable funding.

Another group expanded those findings, making site visits to every camp with our camping consultant, Peter Bloom. A final report recommended all Salvation Army programs be held at Jackson's Point Conference Centre; adventure, fresh-air and holiday camps operate out of Wabana and the Jackson's Point divisional site; and wilderness and out-tripping be hosted at Newport, including Camp Rainbow.

Recognizing that divisional youth secretaries have a diverse workload and are not all specialists in camping, we also decided to hire a provincial camping director to oversee all programming.

**With the merger, will we have the same capacity for children and programs? What impact will the longer travel distances have on camping?**

A detailed study was conducted on camping capacities. We will be able to accommodate the same number of young people or more without wasting valuable resources. Transportation is a greater challenge, but it is not beyond our capability. If you compare other provinces, kids travel the same distance or farther to camps. To be successful, camps must market in a five to eight-hour driving radius, and we will stay well within those parameters. Many other church camps, as well as popular private camps, market the whole province.

People in the Ottawa area also might find it more conducive to travel to Lac Lachigan camp in Quebec for their programs, which would bring more stability to a camp in a smaller division.

The other aspect of our new camping model is the Camp at Home program, which involves two itinerant staff teams who will travel to remote places such as Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., to run day camps utilizing local resources. These day camps

will allow us to get more children into Army camping programs, help build lasting relationships in communities, and familiarize kids and their parents with local corps buildings and leaders.

**How do our camping programs stack up against others in the field?**

Our traditional fresh-air program has involved Bible study, arts and crafts, and sports such as baseball and swimming. But that's basically what we did when I was a camp counsellor decades ago. We haven't changed with the times. What's more, you don't need a huge camp property to do those things. You can run those activities out of your local corps building or community centres.

We have had some very skilled program directors, but often their efforts have been impeded by the lack of money spent on programming as opposed to maintenance

*Day camps will allow us to get more children into Army camping programs and help build lasting relationships in communities*

and property. If you compare the Army with camps like Muskoka Woods or Teen Ranch, we just don't have the same resources. In the past, we threw a few canoes in the water at Jackson's Point and called it a waterfront program. We dabbled in sports camps, but realized we just don't have the facilities and expertise. We partnered with IBM to run computer camps, but they were hard to maintain because, in many cases, the kids that came already knew more than we did. To be competitive, we need to offer more targeted programming and invest the money and expertise to make it work.

**In the past, camps have provided a fertile training ground for young Christian leaders. How will the opportunities for leadership development be addressed under the new model?**

There is a move afoot to have a much more

intense counsellor training program. The focus is on mentoring, so that prospective staff will gain experience through the Camp at Home program before eventually moving up to the main sites.


**What steps are being taken to follow up with fresh-air campers?**

We try and facilitate that by working through the corps, but I'm not sure that it happens as well as it could—especially in more remote regions. I have been impressed with the way Camp Wabana staff stay in touch with Toronto campers year round through reunions, Christmas parties and letter writing. Newsletters, prayer teams and the Internet are also great ways to keep connected. One of the advantages of a full-time provincial camping director, as well as the Camp at Home program, is that more emphasis can be put on follow-up throughout the year.



**How are the spiritual lives of children being encouraged through camping? How do you find the balance between fun and faith?**

One of the things we have already hit on is the challenge of making the connection from camps to corps. Personally, I think we lost something when our fresh-air camps started running Monday to Friday without an intentional Sunday service. However, every camp still has a Bible study time as a key component of their programming.

That being said, I believe 90 percent of nurturing a child's faith comes down to the one-on-one relationships between staff and campers. Making the best use of teachable moments, whether it's at a campfire or during a sports activity, is the way to show kids that faith is not just a Sunday thing—it can be part of their everyday lives. 



by Major Tracey Tidd  
Camp Co-ordinator, Ontario North Division



# RED CAP

## Anger Management for Kids

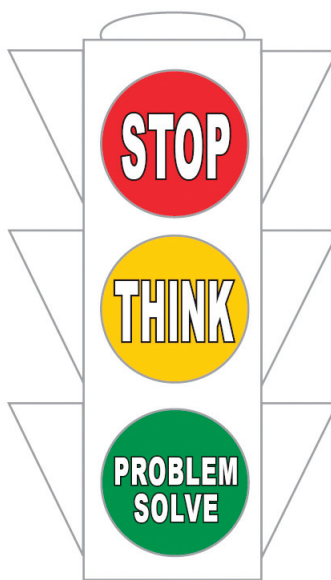
**A**nger is a normal part of life, but many children do not know how to deal with their frustrations. Poor coping skills can lead to vandalism, self-harm and violence. Teaching students to manage their anger can significantly reduce harmful behaviour in a school or community.

That's why The Salvation Army has developed Red Cap, an anger management program for 8- to 12-year-olds. Initiated through family services in Toronto, Red Cap has recently been revised and prepared for wider use in the territory.


Red Cap lessons use the metaphor of a traffic light to encourage kids to "stop" (red), "think" (yellow) and "problem solve" (green) when facing stressful situations. By ingraining this process as an automatic response, students learn a valuable strategy for coping with anger. After the course, students receive a red baseball cap that reminds them to literally "put a cap" on their anger.

Red Cap is facilitated by Salvation Army corps and ministry units that have built relationships with local schools and community partners. As a school club, Red Cap runs for 8 to 10 weeks during an extended 90-minute lunch period. It can also be hosted at a community centre, as an after-school program, at camp or anywhere there are children. All volunteers must be well trained and screened in accordance with The Salvation Army's Territorial Abuse Policy.

Red Cap clubs not only help young people to learn how to manage their anger, they also give The Salvation Army



an opportunity to create partnerships in the community. In addition to "sharing the love of Jesus," the Army "seeks to meet human needs and be a transforming influence in the communities of our world." Red Cap arises out of that mission.

In three regional gatherings earlier this year, more than 60 divisional Red Cap trainers were educated in the program. They, in turn, will train facilitators in each division who will help implement Red Cap across the territory. 

For further information on Red Cap, contact your divisional youth secretary, e-mail [red\\_cap@can.salvationarmy.org](mailto:red_cap@can.salvationarmy.org) or visit [Salvationist.ca/red-cap](http://Salvationist.ca/red-cap)



More than 60 divisional representatives have received Red Cap training



# Community Spirit

When fire struck a Toronto neighbourhood, members of The Warehouse leapt into action

by Ken Ramstead, Associate Editor, Faith & Friends

**A**re we a church?" asks Lieutenant Ron Farr, corps officer at The Warehouse mission in Toronto's inner city. "Not in the normal way of thinking. We engage the community and knock down barriers for people who are not always welcome at other churches. If they want to come in, stinking and unshaven, they are welcome. If they want to sit for five minutes and then walk out, that's fine. And if they just want a meal, that's OK, too. We bring the gospel but don't put any limitations on it. People come as they are."

"The Warehouse is a place of acceptance, love and hope, where the Holy Spirit is present," says Brenda Wootten, director of Florence Booth House. "There is no social status, no pretense there. It's all about being part of the family of God."

In January 2001, Ron Farr became a chaplain at The Gateway, a 108-bed shelter and drop-in centre in the downtown core of Toronto. Neither Ron nor his wife, Linda, were strangers to the inner city. For 15 years, Linda worked as a front-line worker at the Yonge Street Mission while Ron volunteered his services as a chaplain and teacher.

Part of Farr's work as a chaplain was to walk the streets and connect with people experiencing homelessness. "In my travels," he relates, "the Lord led me to a downtown corner. When I got there, I felt the Holy Spirit say to me, 'There is

work to be done here.' " Farr realized that God was calling him to plant a church in the downtown core.

"I noticed that when men left homeless shelters for rooming-house life, they often became socially and spiritually isolated," says Farr. "Six months to a year later, many came back into the system

any amenities. TCH invested \$150,000 in renovations and The Warehouse was up and running.

Rather than impose solutions, Farr asked the community what they thought was missing. When people suggested a breakfast program, Farr agreed, but told them that they would have to be active



*"My first reaction was, I have to get on a plane and get back there. But I was told, 'Don't worry, it's all under control' "*

and the rehabilitation process had to begin anew. I wanted to provide a place where they could find stability and community."

Looking for a location for his new church, Farr approached Toronto Community Housing (TCH) in 2004 and was offered a former garment factory—a raw-girdered skeleton, without

participants. Every Saturday morning, more than 80 people are fed by community members who prepare, serve and clean up. The Warehouse soon added a literacy program, Friday evening musical jam sessions and a resource network where people can look for work or housing. "These events are supervised by us,"




Lieutenant Ron Farr

notes Farr, "but they are really run by the community."

Last April, right after The Warehouse became an official church plant of The Salvation Army, an incident occurred that exemplified what the ministry was about. A rooming house in the area burned down, leaving 11 people homeless.

The Farrs were unavailable. Ron was en route to a Salvation Army integrated-mission conference in Winnipeg, while Linda was having eye surgery. Acting on their own initiative, Warehouse members opened their doors to the victims, contacted the Army's emergency and disaster relief services and helped relocate the dispossessed through Toronto Community Housing.

Farr was informed of the fire only after his plane touched down in Winnipeg. "My first reaction was, *I have to get on a plane and get back there*," he remembers. "But I was told, 'Don't worry, it's all under control.' They did it all themselves."

Back at the conference, Farr gave delegates an up-to-the-minute account of what was happening in Toronto. "What a success story," he recalls. "God's people took the initiative to reach out to their community in a time of crisis. While we were in the conference talking about integrated mission, they were living it." 



## ACCEPTED CANDIDATES

In recent months, *Salvationist* has featured pictures and testimonies of candidates accepted for officer training. Here are nine more who will be part of the Witnesses for Christ Session. Pray for them as they prepare to enter the college for officer training next month.

### Danette Downton

*St. John's Citadel, N.L. E Div*

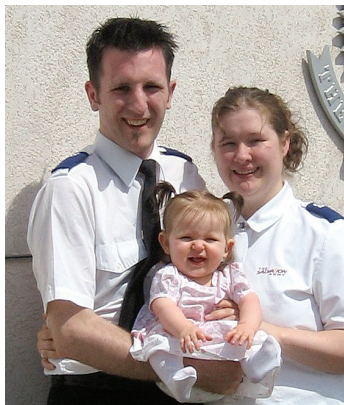
Throughout my life I have made both right and wrong choices, but saying yes to God's call was the best thing I have ever done. Whatever I have faced, God has been at my side comforting me and guiding me. I'm excited to see where he will lead me as an officer, and want to be used of him to spread his gospel and be a positive influence on other people's lives.



### Mike and Melissa Mailman (with daughter Megan)

*Lloydminster, Alta., Prairie Div*

Having accepted Christ as a child, I first felt God's call to officership during an Army congress when I was 12. After growing up and getting married, I became content with my "dream job" of graphic design and serving God through my music ministry. That all changed when God spoke to me again and called me to full-time service. I now look forward to serving him through whatever ministry adventures he has in store for my life.—Mike



Though not growing up in the church, I knew by age 16 that I wanted to be different than my friends and serve God with everything I had. I surrendered my life

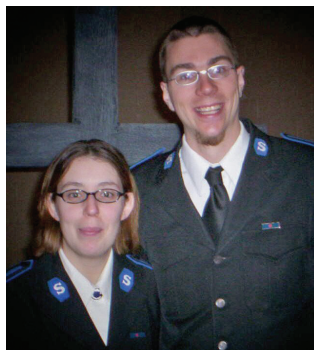
to Christ and he soon began to use me in various ways both at home and abroad. Knowing that I can walk with boldness wherever God takes me, I claim the promise found in Proverbs 16:3: "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed" (NIV).—Melissa

### Peter and Amanda Robinson

*South Meadows CC, Calgary, Prairie Div*

Following a powerful encounter with God at summer camp when I was 16, I made a conscious effort to live my life for him. Feeling called to youth ministry, I attended Bible college to broaden my knowledge and skills. While there, God clearly told me he wanted me to be an officer. I am depending fully on him as I embark on this new and exciting journey.—Peter

As a teenager I fully surrendered my life to God, promising to actively live out my faith and daily seek his will. After attending Bible college, I moved to Calgary to work with families in need. Helping people soon became my passion and before long it was clear to me that God was calling me to be an officer. With my husband, Peter, I am committed to serving him through ministering to others.—Amanda



### Jon and Tracy Savage (with children Kurtis and Cassandra)

*St. Albert Church and Community Centre, Alta., Prairie Div*

God's call to officership was always clear, but I remained determined to go my own way in life. When I finally opened my heart and gave myself fully to him, I was at peace with where he was leading me. I am continually learning and leaning on him for comfort and guidance, and know that, through him, I can accomplish all that he requires of me.—Jon

Though I knew from a young age that God wanted me to make a difference in other people's lives, I didn't want to give in to his will. Then one day, I was challenged to not be afraid of what God was calling me to do and I knew I could no longer hide from his plans. Since surrendering myself to him, he has filled me with a new power to accomplish more than I ever could in my own strength. I pray that I will be used wherever God needs me.—Tracy



### Matt and Rachel Sheils (with children Emma and Lucas)

*Khi Community, Milton, Ont. CE Div*

My parents didn't become Christians until I was 13. Once they gave their hearts to Christ, life changed for all of us and I began growing in my own relationship with God. Three years later, while attending a youth conference, the Lord revealed to me that I would be working in full-time ministry in the future. Now, 10 years later, I'm thrilled that the time has finally come and look forward to serving him through The Salvation Army.—Matt



Growing up in a Roman Catholic family in Wisconsin, U.S.A., I always felt that one day I would serve the Lord. I might have become a nun, but God had other plans. Since coming to The Salvation Army, God has clearly called me into full-time ministry. I don't know what to expect as I follow his path for my life, but am leaving it all in God's hands. I know that he will be able to use me more powerfully if he is in complete control.—Rachel

## Dedicated Back to God

WESTVILLE, N.S.—Harley and Lacey Davidson are dedicated back to the Lord by their parents, John and Kathy Davidson. Pictured during the dedication ceremony are Cpts Jim and Debbie Sinclair, COs, holding Harley and Lacey, respectively, and big brother Ashton





## Local Leadership Strengthened



CONCEPTION BAY SOUTH, N.L.—New HLS Lydia Penney is commissioned by Mjrs Lyndon and Lisa Hale, COs



ST. JOHN'S, N.L.—Mjr Maxine Boyde, CO, St. John's West, commissions new CS Mjr Ruth Humby and CT Paul Coombs

## New Officers Commissioned

MONCTON, N.B.—Comr M. Christine MacMillan, former TC, congratulates Cpts Serge and Yvette Brunet, COs, on being commissioned to the rank of captain. A large group of friends and well-wishers joined in celebrations to mark the occasion



OTTAWA—Lt (Dr.) Judy McIntosh is commissioned as a lieutenant by Mjr Beverly Ivany, secretary for candidates, THQ. The event took place during her welcome as associate CO at Gladstone CC. Lt (Dr.) McIntosh is supported by her daughter, Kerry Brown; son, Jason Brazeau; CSM Linda Colwell; Mjr Kathryn Trim, then CO, Ottawa Citadel; Mjr Erin Johnson, CO, Gladstone CC; Mjr David Ivany, TYS



## Junior Band Benefits from CSB Donation

WESTVILLE, N.S.—Cpt Louise Wareham, DYS, Maritime Div, presents a new cornet to Junior Band Member Jacqueline Wright. The instrument was made available by the Canadian Staff Band as part of an ongoing program to benefit beginner's band programs throughout the territory. From left, Cpts Jim and Debbie Sinclair, COs; Jacqueline Wright, Junior Band Leader George Head; Cpt Louise Wareham



## GAZETTE INTERNATIONAL

### Promotions to lt-colonel

Mjrs Massimo/Jane Paone (OC and CPWM, Italy Command)

### Appointments/promotions

Mjrs Massimo/Anne-Florence Tursi, GS and CSWM/CHQ support officer, Italy Command; Mjrs Theo/Tineke Wolterink, CS and TSWM, Netherlands and Czech Republic Tty, with rank of lt-colonel

### TERRITORIAL

#### Births

Cpts Bruce/Kristiana Mac Kenzie, son, Iain Bruce Kenneth, May 25

### Commissioned as captains

Aux-Cpts Serge/Yvette Brunet

### Accepted as lieutenant

Dr. Judy McIntosh

### Appointments

Mjrs Gary/Glenys Butt, executive director and director of pastoral care, A. R. Goudie Eventide Home, Kitchener, Ont. GL Div; Mjr Barbara Champ, manager for The Scarborough Hospital (Grace site), THQ social services—health services (designation change only); Mjr Brenda Critch, divisional prayer co-ordinator, N.L. E Div (additional responsibility); Mjrs Ian/Kathleen McAlister, executive director and assistant executive director, Grace Mansion, Vancouver, B.C. Div; Lt Judy McIntosh, associate CO, Gladstone CC, Ottawa, Ont. CE Div; Cpt Marren Pluchinski, director of program for addictions and corrections, Yellowknife Corps and Resource Centre, Que. & Northern Ttys Div; Cpt Neil Sunnuck, DYS and divisional

emergency measures officer, Ont. N Div; Cpt Melissa Sunnuck, ADYS, Ont. N Div

### Reinforcement personnel

Cpts Keith/Joyce Warford, Claremont Temple, Cape Town, South Africa, Southern Africa Tty (Cpt Keith Warford also DSBA, Western Cape Div)

### Returning to Canada

Mjrs Roy/Juanita Dueck

### Short-term disability

Mjr Sandra Habkirk

### Retirements

Mjrs Kenneth/Glennice Bonnar, out of Scarborough Citadel, Toronto. Last appointments, DC and DDWM, former Ont. E Div; Mjrs Thomas/Brenda Browne, out of Woodstock, Ont. Last appointment: Penticton, B.C. Div; Mjr Mary Janes, out of Twillingate, N.L. Last appointment, chaplain, A. R. Goudie Eventide Home for Senior Citizens, Kitchener, Ont. GL Div; Mjr Donald Oakley, out of Sydney, N.S. Last appointment: exec dir, Booth Centre, Brantford, Ont. GL Div; Mjr Greta Oakley, out of Garnish, N.L. Last appointment, assistant exec dir, Booth Centre, Brantford, Ont. GL Div; Mjrs Robert/Shirley Ratcliff, out of Vancouver Temple, B.C. Last appointments: DC and DDWM, former Alta. & Northern Ttys Div; Mjrs Marvin/Vera Youden, out of Stephenville, N.L. Last appointment: Bayview, N.L. W Div

### Retirement addresses

Mjrs Roger/Madeleine Beaulac, 984 Rue Jean-B Allard, Beloeil QC J3G 6H8; Mjr Robin Cuff, 302-625 Evans Ave, Toronto ON M8W 2W5; Mjrs William/Barbara Gower, 7 Georgian Glen Dr, Wasaga Beach ON L9Z 1K6; Mjrs Clyde/Gladys

Osmond, 1106-2015 Lawrence Ave E, Toronto ON M1R 5H2; Mjrs Robert/Shirley Ratcliff, 63-8881 Walters St, Chilliwack BC V2P 8E9; Mjrs Fred/Winnie Randell, 401 Main St, Birch Bay NL A0G 1E0

### Promoted to Glory

Mjr Alton Haggett, from Halifax, May 23; Mrs. Brg Nessie Strachan, from Toronto, Jun 7

## CALENDAR

### Commissioners William and Marilyn Francis

Aug 1-5 Bible and Leadership Institute, Camp Wonderland, Wisconsin, U.S.A. Central Tty; Aug 20-22 corporate leadership training, Toronto; Aug 29 mid-week program, Territorial School of Music and Gospel Arts, Jackson's Point, Ont.

### Colonels Glen and Eleanor Shepherd

Aug 18-25 senior music and gospel arts camp, Jackson's Point, Ont. CE Div

### General and Mrs. Bramwell H. Tillsley (Rtd)

Aug 24-26 divisional family camp, Empire State Div, Syracuse, N.Y., U.S.A. Eastern Tty; Sep 8-13 holiness seminars, N.L. W Div

**Guide to Abbreviations:** ADYS – assistant divisional youth secretary; CHQ – command headquarters; CPWM – command president of women's ministries; CS – chief secretary; DC – divisional commander; CSWM – command secretary for women's ministries; DDWM – divisional director of women's ministries; DSBA – divisional secretary for business administration; DYS – divisional youth secretary; GS – general secretary; OC – officer commanding; TSWM – territorial secretary for women's ministries



## TRIBUTE



GLACE BAY, N.S.—Raised in a Christian home, **Albert Dejeet** was a Salvationist from his youth. A bandsman for 60 years, he also served as songster, songster leader, CSM and CCM worker, and ministered as an envoy at both Glace Bay and Sydney, N.S. A member of the Gideons, Albert was awarded lifetime membership with the Gideons International in Canada. His energetic personality and passionate preaching commanded respect and affection from the many whose lives he touched. Albert is survived by sons Bert (Liesje deBurger) and Anders (Anne); daughter, Janice Elloway; brother, Alf (Ruth); sister, Rachael Bond; sisters-in-law Alma Dejeet and Beulah Rushton (Warford); six grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

TRITON, N.L.—Born in 1923, **Delphine Hazel Vincent** was a lifelong Salvationist. She served as YP treasurer and was also an active home league member. Growing up in Triton, Delphine married Bert Vincent and together they raised a family of 10 children. Her commitments included God, the church and her family. In recent years, she enjoyed making quilts for her 18 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. Delphine is missed by daughters Yvonne (Winston), Gloria (Guy) and Mavis (Harry); sons Aubrey (Christine), Dennis (Karen), Captain Vaden (Judy), Albert (Beverly), Captain Morris (Wanda), Max and Graham (Joann), and special family friend, Keith.



BURNABY, B.C.—Born in 1923 in Winterton, N.L., **Myrtle Elizabeth Deering (nee Pitcher)** grew up at the Adelaide Street Corps in St. John's. Commissioned in 1944 as a member of the Liberty Session, she served as an officer/teacher in several Newfoundland communities, then joined her fiancé, Ed Deering, in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), where they spent many years giving reinforcement service. Their 60 years of marriage commenced in 1947 at the Army's Usher Institute. Myrtle's critical ill health necessitated an early return to Canada, where they went on to serve in various corps, social services, headquarters and training college appointments. Following her years of officership, Myrtle worked as a research librarian at the University of Alberta. In retirement, the Deerings served as visitation officers at Cariboo Hill Temple, where Myrtle was known as a skilled Bible teacher and public speaker. She is survived by her husband, Ed; sons Lloyd (Janice) and Dennis; daughter, Anne Letendre; brother, Commissioner Arthur (Betty) Pitcher; sisters Major Eileen (Archie) Peat, Mrs. General Maude (Bram) Tillsley, Lt-Colonel Ethel Slous, and their families.

BURNABY, B.C.—**Mrs. Lt-Colonel Margaret Rea (nee Koepke)** was born in 1916 in Regina, where as a teenager she was invited to the Salvation Army youth group by her neighbours. Following marriage to her husband, Willard, in 1942, and the birth of their daughter, Lyn, they entered training and were commissioned as officers in 1947. Together they served as corps officers and divisional youth leaders in Ontario, Alberta and Newfoundland, as well as at the Calgary Children's Village. When Willard became property secretary at THQ, Margaret served in various capacities including the oversight of the *Home League Quarterly*, a program magazine for women leaders. During this time, she was much in demand as a speaker within the territory. She retired with her husband in 1983, following their leadership of the former British Columbia South Division. Margaret is survived by her son, William (Margaret); son-in-law, Don; sister, Helen (Charley) Stevens, and their families.



NOTE: When submitting pictures with tributes or news reports, they should be sent as photographs to be scanned, or e-mailed to [salvationist@can.salvationarmy.org](mailto:salvationist@can.salvationarmy.org) as digital images with a resolution of at least 300 dpi. Send images as JPEG or TIFF attachments and avoid including images embedded in Word documents or within e-mail messages. Do not send printouts of digital pictures as these cannot be used. We require the original computer file for processing in order to make your photographs look their best.

## NEW COMMITMENTS

BELLEVILLE, ONT.—Mjrs Michael and Lee Anne Hoeft, former COs, welcome one new soldier and 23 adherents. Mjr Michael Hoeft writes: "May 6 was a banner day for Belleville Citadel as we celebrated the enrolment of new members. The entire meeting was based on Acts 2:42-47 and focused on sound doctrine, fellowship and prayer. Although we may not have experienced the daily additions that the early Church did, we rejoice that God has brought these new members to the corps and have faith for even greater things"



PRINCE GEORGE, B.C.—Left: Bruce Kirk, lay pastor, Prince George CC, welcomes new adherents Mindy Olsen and Rick Barkowski; right: new soldier Ryan Sapaach is welcomed by lay pastor Bruce Kirk and Colour Sergeant Janet Thompson



PRINCE RUPERT, B.C.—New members join the corps family at Prince Rupert CC. Cpt Gary Sheils, CO, comments: "During a visit by Mjrs Stan and Judy Folkins from DHQ, we had a potluck lunch on Saturday followed by a dedication meeting. We enrolled five junior soldiers and two senior soldiers and had an opportunity for renewal for all believers"



KINGSTON, ONT.—New soldiers at Rideau Heights CC are seen with Cpts Claudine and Randy Kadonaga, COs. From left, Sharon Washer (re-instated), Richard and Barbara Green, Mary and Howard Lloyd



# Protect Your Children

Teaching kids some basic safety rules can offer peace of mind to worrying parents

by Major Kathie Chiu

Corps Officer and Executive Director of The Caring Place Ministries, Mountain View Community Church, Maple Ridge, B.C.

The bird, a killdeer, was going ballistic. Back and forth, back and forth it went, peeping away in desperation. Then it bent over and fanned its wings at me. I stopped in my tracks and wondered, “What on earth is this bird doing?”

One more step and I found the answer. A nest was right behind my trailer and someone had marked it with a stick and a rock so no one would step on it. It was a mama bird protecting her nest full of eggs. She was squawking to draw my attention away from her nest and to warn me to stay away.

I can identify with that mama bird. As a parent, I do whatever it takes to protect my children. And there is much to protect them from these days.

Summer is a time when added dangers exist. There are lots of things out there that spell trouble for our kids. It's exhausting trying to keep up with them, especially if you are the parent of an “Evan” like I am. Where does he get all that energy? Evan's the kind of boy that goes out clean and five minutes later comes back missing articles of clothing and covered in dirt.

I remember vividly the first year we bought our trailer. The May long weekend was coming up, so we planned our first camping trip. What a nightmare it was monitoring Evan, the “social butterfly” of the Big Foot Family Campground. That was no relaxing weekend for me. I spent it chasing him around and every two minutes asking people, “Have you seen Evan?”

So what's a parent to do? Well, we can't protect them from every danger, no matter how hard we try. But we can do our best to prepare and teach them a few things that will keep them safer and parents saner. Here are a few tips:

**1. Set their boundaries.** You can't stay outside all day watching your kids. Give them a set time and have them check in. (For Evan, we measure it in the time it

takes for certain TV shows, such as *Dora the Explorer*.)

**2. Invite your children's friends over.** Let them play in your backyard so you know where your kids are. A jug of Kool-Aid and a bag of chips is a small price to pay for



*It's exhausting trying to keep up with your kids*

peace of mind. We put the sprinkler on and all the neighbourhood kids show up!

**3. Use sunscreen.** Put it on your children to protect them from harmful UV rays—even kids with a healthy tan. My boys have Asian heritage and tan well, but they still need sunscreen to avoid damage from the sun.

**4. Provide sunglasses.** The sun can harm young developing eyes, which let

in more UV rays than adult eyes. We only buy cheap sunglasses for the kids—in our house it's a miracle if a pair lasts the whole summer.

**5. Learn water safety.** At swimming lessons they teach more than just swimming. Local pools offer lessons but can be expensive if you have more than one child. Our leisure centre has a program to help out families with lower incomes.

**6. Teach your children what to do around bees and wasps.** Stings can be very unpleasant—for both kids and parents! Make sure your children know to stay still and not move quickly when bees or wasps are around.

**7. Bicycle safety is extremely important.** All kids should wear a helmet to protect themselves whether they are riding a bike, a scooter or in-line skates. You can buy a multi-purpose helmet that can be used for all types of sports.

Even when we've done everything possible that a parent can do, it's still sometimes not enough. There are times when our children will test the law of gravity and end up at the hospital emergency room.

That's why the most important thing we can do is pray. Pray for their safety and pray that whatever happens, God will be with us through the experience. In Matthew 6:27, Jesus reminds us not to worry when he asks, “Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

Do all you can to teach your children to be safe, then put them in God's hands and let them have a bit of freedom according to their age. You can't protect them forever. I know. I've tried and it doesn't work. At some point you have to let your children go and learn from life. Do your best—let God do the rest. S

Check out these websites with great safety tips to teach your kids:

[www.sass.ca/amenu.htm](http://www.sass.ca/amenu.htm)

[www.hydroonenetworks.com/en/safety/safety\\_tips/children](http://www.hydroonenetworks.com/en/safety/safety_tips/children)

[www.safety-council.org/info/child/bicycle.htm](http://www.safety-council.org/info/child/bicycle.htm)

[www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety/childsafety/menu.htm](http://www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety/childsafety/menu.htm)



## August 1-2

### Focus on Nature

- 1 Take time today to enjoy and thank God for the beauty of nature
- 2 Thank God for the seasons, each with its own distinctive beauty

## August 3-9

### Focus on British Columbia Division

- 3 Pray that prayer and listening to God's voice will permeate all divisional and local activities
- 4 Pray that opportunities for integration, partnerships and sharing resources will make individual ministry units stronger than they can be on their own
- 5 Pray for commitment to leadership development at every level, celebrating and building on each person's strengths and gifts
- 6 Pray for divisional church plants: The Willows (Langley), Westsong CC (Victoria), X-culture (new 614 ministry, Vancouver) and new social-services projects
- 7 Pray that the working group on human trafficking will make strategic progress in identifying and supporting local victims
- 8 Pray for a renewal of a holy lifestyle among Salvationists and a renewed passion for the salvation of the lost
- 9 Pray that Salvationists will practise the

presence of God—even when the “presents” of God don't seem obvious

## August 10-16

### Living the Vision: We Envision a Holy Army

- 10 Pray that, as a holy people, we will pursue justice and right living
- 11 Pray that, as God's people, we will desire to become all that Christ would have us be
- 12 Pray for a continuing desire to explore our Wesleyan heritage
- 13 Pray that our lives will express godly behaviour—integral to our mission
- 14 Pray for a desire to equip our minds regarding a holy walk of faith through reading and study
- 15 Pray that our relationship with Christ will spill out to touch people
- 16 Pray the simple yet profound prayer: “To be like Jesus”

## August 17-23

### Focus on Territorial School of Music and Gospel Arts

- 17 Pray for God's will to be fulfilled in the lives of students and faculty
- 18 Pray that faculty will be wise in the Spirit for personally mentoring delegates on an individual basis
- 19 Pray that the Bible teaching will be clear and consistent

- 20 Pray that the small groups will be effective in impacting delegates' spiritual lives throughout the week
- 21 Pray that the prayer room will revitalize and shape the habits of all who visit
- 22 Pray that this year's music and other creative ministries will honour God and be personally significant for all participants
- 23 Pray that delegates will be reinforced in their calling to local ministry in their corps and communities

## August 24-31

### Focus on the New School Year

- 24 Pray for our children and youth preparing to return to school
- 25 Pray for teachers who have responsibility for teaching our young people
- 26 Pray that our children will have an impact on fellow students who are unchurched
- 27 Pray for our young adults as they begin their post-secondary education
- 28 Pray for working parents coping with the stress of the busy fall schedule of school and activities
- 29 Pray for children who are dealing with the pressure of specific learning disabilities
- 30 Pray for children in the world who are presently deprived of education, that God will make a way to provide for them
- 31 Thank God for opportunities for learning in the Canada and Bermuda Territory



## Letters

### Partners in Mission

I found your February issue on Partners in Mission so interesting that I immediately sat down and read it from cover to cover. Thank you for all the well-written and informative articles. Having spent so many years as a reinforcement officer in Africa, and having visited other Far East and Pacific territories, I was particularly interested in the reports describing The Salvation Army's work in countries such as Myanmar, Indonesia, Germany and Zimbabwe.

*Mrs. Comr Alison Walter, Toronto*

### Hitting the Mark

It is appreciated that monthly themes are being explored in *Salvationist*. The March issue on music and gospel arts was most relevant and of wide interest. It's unfortunate that controversy still exists between what is widely classified as traditional and contemporary worship. In many churches, such differences have divided congregations. In an age when there is less emphasis on preaching and evangelism, perhaps an issue devoted to such subjects would be appropriate. In some places preaching has become a lost art, yet the Bible repeatedly stresses that this is God's means to save and sanctify. “How shall they

hear without a preacher?” (see Romans 10:14). Keep up the good work for the Lord.

*Lt-Col Robert Chapman, Prince Albert, Sask.*

### The Simple Life

Your May cover focusing on rural ministry is brilliant and I'm sure you have received much response. Well done! I showed the cover to some Swedish colleagues and they immediately recognized themselves in the picture, despite its American origins. We shared a good laugh over it as we looked at it together. Thanks, too, for the content of this issue, which was challenging, provocative and helpful.

*Comr Victor Poke, TC, Sweden and Latvia*

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# Silenced Citizens

Children and youth deserve our creativity and commitment to keep them connected to Christ

by Lt-Colonel David Hiscock, Secretary for Program Services, THQ

It is the right of children and youth in Canada and Bermuda to hear the gospel and experience the love of God in fellowship with each other. As their guardians, we adults are the voices that direct and the hands that protect. We have the privilege of influencing, nurturing and demonstrating the love of Christ. As individuals and collectively as the Church, it is our responsibility to make their welfare our priority. At times, this may seem a daunting and overwhelming task, especially with so many other issues competing for our time and energy.

It is deeply challenging to note that, during the past 10 years, both attendance and membership in many Salvation Army youth ministries have declined. This during a time when, according to Statistics Canada, the population of children and youth in Canada has remained constant.

We could draw many conclusions: models of children and youth ministry may not be relevant to changing cultural and social diversity; there are a growing number of youth emerging with secular non-Christian backgrounds; children, youth and adults are extremely busy.

Our immediate response might be one of alarm or despondency. But such a limited reaction would be unfair to the youth and children of our communities. They deserve our creativity and commitment.

The Senate Human Rights Committee recently issued a report entitled *Children—The Silenced Citizens*. One of its conclusions was that Canada has failed to live up to its obligations to protect the rights and freedoms of children.

Could we also say that children's voices rarely inform church policies and priorities? Yet young people are God's most valuable asset, made vulnerable by adult inaction and pre-occupation with "more important" issues.

The Bible addresses this subject. In

Jesus' day, it was common practice for parents and grandparents to bring children to the rabbi for a blessing. In Matthew 19:13-15, we read how the disciples felt the need to "silence the children"—to prevent them from an essential encounter with Jesus. Why was there such an overwhelming objection? Did they overlook the worth of the children? Did they recognize them

double command makes clear the priority that all children and youth should receive. Jesus knew it, the Church has always known it, and even sociologists acknowledge that social behaviour, faith and values are primarily caught and taught during childhood and adolescent years.


I am not suggesting that excellence in youth ministry is not found in Salvation

Army work around the territory. In Kelowna, B.C., innovative leadership provides ball-hockey ministry, family activity nights (guitar, bass, African drumming, art and dance) and skateboard outreach. These programs provide a safe place for kids in a world of chaos. At Guelph, Ont., and Agincourt Community Church, Toronto, you will discover a thriving ministry through Pioneer Clubs. We also praise God for youth who fearlessly share their faith in front-line ministry.

Today's church has creativity, resources and programs to influence and disciple children and youth for Christ. Yet could the real challenge be one of attitude, vision and a matter of what we value? Are we directing appropriate resources, love and time to meeting the needs of children and adolescents?

The Gospel of Matthew records that Jesus placed his hands upon the children and blessed them. It was a personal and interactive encounter. His priorities, with a cost of time and energy, were clearly established.

Parents, grandparents, soldiers, adherents, leaders everywhere: We may need to be more intentional, responding to the needs of our children and youth and the opportunities for faith development.

Listen and you will understand the heartbeat of God for his youthful creation. Silence can be broken by the laughter, learning and engagement of young people in your local setting. An immediate opportunity lies at your doorstep. God is calling each of us to be agents for change in attitude and action. 



*Are we directing appropriate resources, love and time to meeting the needs of our young people?*

as being less important citizens, unworthy of the Master's time?

It is alarming to think that without the intervention of Christ himself, those children's needs would not have been met. His influence would not have impacted their lives. The adult voices would have misrepresented the needs of the voiceless. "Let the little children come to me," said Jesus, "and do not hinder them." This



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